

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN PROMOTING  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

**BY**

**OBAYUWANA OSAZUMAMWEN KELVIN  
SSC2105725**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY.**

**OCTOBER, 2025**

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN PROMOTING  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

**BY**

**OBAYUWANA OSAZUMAMWEN KELVIN  
SSC2105725**

**BEING A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,  
BENIN CITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE AWARD OF B.Sc DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**OCTOBRE, 2025**

## CERTIFICATION

I certify that this research work was carried out by **Obayuwana Osazumamwen Kelvin** of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City. This research work is deemed adequate both in scope and quality in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of B.Sc Degree in Political Science of the University of Benin, Benin City.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr. Andrew Amadasu**  
**(Project Supervisor)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr. G.O. Igiebor**  
**(Head of Department)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty, for His mercy throughout my years in the University of Benin.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My most gratitude goes to God Almighty who in his infinite love, grace and mercy made it possible for this research to be successful. To my supervisor Dr. Andrew AMADASU, I would like to say a big thank you for his invaluable guidance, support and expertise throughout the entire duration of this project. His continuous encouragement, constructive feedback and insightful suggestions have been instrumental in shaping the direction and quality of my work.

To the Hod Dr. Igiebor, Thank you for all your good deeds may God Almighty continue to bless you abundantly. Furthermore, I would like to thank my friends and classmates for their support and encouragement throughout this academic journey.

I am deeply grateful to my parents Mr. And Mrs Francis Stella Obayuwana for their unwavering love, encouragement and understanding throughout my academic pursuits. Their belief in my abilities and their constant motivation have been the driving force behind my accomplishments and success. To my ever loving and supportive uncle and aunty Mr and Mrs Osawaru and Cynthia Ohonba, Prof Nosa Ohonba and also to my lovely Uncle and Auntie, Mr and Mrs Julius and Helen Igbineweka for their immense contribution towards my accomplishment their immense contributions cannot be underestimated and appreciated.

The researcher is also grateful to his siblings Cynthia Odigie, Jennifer Irene, Aizenosa, Nicholas, Efosa, Jeffery, Bobby obayuwana. You guys are Amazing and supportive and I pray the bond between us grow stronger every passing day. The researcher also acknowledges his friends whom this academic journey has brought him; Majesty Ebhodaghe, Osayi Bright, Joshua Edosomwan, Osaniga Obaizanomwan, Chiazor Ebuka, Alile Ikponmwosa, Irabor Benjamin, Jefferson, Mirabel and also to my course rep; Abdullahi Haruna. I also want to show appreciation to my first roomies in my first year; Temmy, Favour, God bless you all.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title pages	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Contents	v
Abstract	vii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem -	2
1.3 Objectives of the study	3
1.4 Research hypothesis	4
1.5 Significance of the study	4
1.6 Scope of the study	5
1.7 Definitions of terms	5
<b>CHAPTER LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Conceptualizing Local Government	7
2.2 Local Government Administration	8
2.3 Social and Economic Development Process	13
2.4 Characteristics of Local Government	14
2.5 The History of Local Government in Nigeria	15
2.6 Local Government Mobilization for Communal Development	16
2.7 Sources of Revenue Generation in the Local Government	17
<b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Introduction	21
3.2 Research Design	22
3.3 Population of the Study	23
3.4 Sampling Size and Sampling Technique	24
3.5 Method of Data Collection	24
3.6 Validation and Reliability of the Instrument	24
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS</b>	
4.1 Introduction I	25
4.2 Data Analysis I	26
4.3 Data Analysis II	27
4.4 Discussion of Findings	

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Summary of Findings	29
5.2 Conclusion	31
5.3 Recommendations	33
References	35
Appendix	37

## ABSTRACT

*Local governments in Nigeria are to provide services aimed at improving the welfare of people living within their jurisdictions. In this research work, the researcher intended to have a general discussion with local government as my background. But lack of space may not allow me for detailed discussion and analysis. However, all essential parts of the role of local government administration in economic and social development of rural areas in Nigeria are discussed. In chapter one, I discussed the background of the problem of study, the scope, some research questions and research hypothesis, significant and some definition of terms. Chapter two contains review of related literature, local government, social and economic development process, characteristics of rural area and the history of local government.*

*Furthermore, chapter three contains research design, area of study, population and sample size, instrument for data collection, validation of instrument, reliability of instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis. Chapter four contains presentation and analysis of data, testing of hypothesis and summary of result. Finally, chapter five contains discussion of result findings, conclusion, and implication of the research findings, recommendation, limitation and suggestion for further research.*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

It is difficult for any state to administer successfully all the functions of governed through the central organs of the state. It follows that there must be sub-national governments especially a local body of officials conversant with local needs and problems operating as administrative units, created to bring government closer to the people. In the words of Yahaya (1980), a development-oriented local government system is expected to be a vehicle for the provision of services which are the necessary prerequisite for sustainable development. In this study, I attempt to explain clearly impact of local government in Nigeria.

Nigerian local government system has witnessed tremendous transformation since introduction of the 1988 civil service reforms and its application at the local government administration. One of the changes introduced to strengthen the local government is direct payment of their statutory allocations which was increased from 15% to 20% in addition, local government auditor was established in each state government to ensure proper utilization of financial resources at the local level to check any misappropriation of public funds. Also, all local governments now have a common structure which distinguishes them from service departments.

Local government at any level has some standards and roles such as the maintenance and order, the promotion of economic and social development. They are considerable

freedom to act as they see fit for the interest of the local community. From the point of view the government as agent of development is well placed to help the rural areas to develop. These can be done by investing in social and economic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, electrification and telecommunication. The other essential duties inherited from the Native authorities include rural and the urban water supplies, markets and libraries. We generally regard the convenience list as including those extra amenities which makes life better in the community, other than those which are earlier stated e.g. creation bus and lorry parks, community recreation centers, parks and open spaces, grazing areas and fuel plantations, the naming of streets and the numbering of buildings. These are recognized as automatically the responsibility of the local government. They also help in the service of park control and supply of water, electricity and gas, the provision of road and water transport, and any other trading undertaking that the state government specifically authorizes.

The local governments also take care of health orientation and supplying of drugs, midwifery service, to arrange for health visiting and home nursing and to provide facilities for vaccination and

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Local government is expected to become more meaningful in facilitating social and economic development at the grassroots level. Central to the achievement of these objectives is the financial viability of this tier of government. This point has been subtly underscored by "Dasuki panel" on local government administration, when it observed

inter alia that a good number of local government roles could not be performed at all, due to a variety of reasons principal among which are:

- a) Inadequate financial capacity.
- b) Lack of necessary technical manpower, and erosion of functions particularly in the revenue yielding areas by state government reducing the revenue base of the local government. thus

This demonstrates that success or failure of local government depends among other things, on their revenue base, the fiscal resources available and the way these resources are utilized. However, central to the above is the ability of the local government to generate substantial financial resources which is one of the tripartite goals of every local government in Nigeria. More importantly, one is inclined to think that this is the point that can give an impact in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty of Ovia North-East local government.

The researcher wants to identify the reasons for the vicarious cycle, and proffer a solution to the above problems.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This study seeks to look at the contribution of local government development of rural areas in Nigeria using Ovia North-East local government area of Edo state a case study.

This research also aimed at identifying different factors militating against the effectiveness of local government and solutions to those problems identified and it will be offered at the completion of the research work.

Finally, the study makes a modest attempt to fulfill this purpose in the social and economic development of the effective delivery of service to the respective local populations scattered all over the country. It also make a recommendations on making local government an effective third level of government, the development and management of the human resources of local governments and the development of the financial resources of local government. The overall thrust of the recommendation is on how to ensure faithful implementation of local government.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

*The research questions will be based on the following:*

- i. Do local governments have any role to play in the economic development of rural area?
- ii. To what extent has local government administration played its roles in rural area?
- iii. Does low morale among the staffs of local government militate against development of rural areas?
- iv. Is there any constraint that militates against the success of development process of local government?
- v. Does weak financial base hinder the goals of meeting up rural development?

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The need and importance of the research is obvious. At a time when local government has come to assume an overwhelming influence on the process of political and economic development. It becomes more relevant to examine much more closely, the characters

**Socio-economic Development:** This is a combination of social and economic development. It embraces improvement in not only standard of living and per-capital income, but also high level of employment, reducing inflation, adequate food, high infrastructures, stressing values rather than achievement.

**Programs:** This consists of essentially integrated series of development projects that spans over a length of time.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Conceptualizing Local Government**

The study of local government has attracted quite a substantial amount of literatures in all its ramifications. Because of the multifunctional roles of local government, scholars have undertaken studies and research on these studies. Parts of these functions ranges from the management of local government financing, staffing and manpower development, with a view of giving it the appropriate meaning it deserves.

There is a reasonable high degree of consensus among most scholars on the meaning of local although a few definitions after differ marginally exist. This to a large extent is a function of the divergent views of socio-economie and political environment of scholars.

According "to Professor Odenigwe (1985)" an erudite scholar in that field defined local government as a system of local administration under which local communities and towns are organized to maintain law and order provide some limited range of social services and public amenities and encourage the cooperation and participation of the inhabitants in joint endeavors towards the improvement of their living. It provides the community with formal organizational framework, which enables them to conduct their affairs effectively and regulate the actions of their members for the general public.

In a scholarly contribution, Ikelegbe A. O. (1976) did not only define the concept of local government but also provided an elaborate explanation of the goals of local government.

According to him the goals are the facilitation of democratic self-governance at the local level through local representatives, the mobilization and management of local resources through local involvement and encouragement, the planning and provision of services and development activities, based on local needs, enhance stability and decentralize government activities and services closest to the people and the integration of local communities into the federal scheme and state and federal governments through vital communications mobilization and inputs to governance.

According to Nations office for public administration (1986) defines local government as a political sub-division of a nation or in federal system of a state which is constituted by law and has substantial control over local affairs including the power to impose tax or to exert labour for prescribed purpose.

The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected. This could also be elaborated among the subheading below.

## **2.2 Local Government Administration**

Local government administration has being the third tier of the government which has limited bound within which it operates. In the case of a federal system it is usually a third tier of government, while in situation where a country is operating a unitary system the local government can be said to be in the second tier category. This is because of the absence of state or regional government.

Local government administration covers a delimited area within such an area; it is the duty of local government officials to ensure the people of the area fully involved in the political economic social administration of their locality. Local government ensures that, the needs of the people within its area of jurisdiction are satisfied.

Local government administration could be further explained in the following sub-heading.

#### **a) Budgeting**

Local government administration could not be effective without budgeting, the local government also try to bring out their own budget within a particular time. This budget is used for building of school, road, hospital, library and so on.

According to Adewani in (1986) he argues on financial and staffing matters, he suggested that guideline should be laid down for the financial operations of local governments leaving them some freedom of actions that will attract self-respecting citizens into local government and that staffs should be posted or appointed to local government without consultation and consent of the state government.

#### **b) Controlling**

Local government in Nigeria depends largely on the state and federal for their funds, staffing and control. Buttressing this point, the Chief of staff supreme late Shehu Yaradua while launching the local government over the year suffered from continuous whiting down of their power. The state governments have continued to enrich upon what would normally have to be the exclusive power of local government.

From the above statement, it could be adduced that local governments are nothing more, the puppets in the hand of the state and federal government. Although the state and federal government realized the importance of local government, their attitude have been that of sheer nonchalant and disregard to the issue of giving them a free hand to perform this functions.

### **c) Reporting**

The local government chairman or representative must ensure that he has good information on the performance and fooling of both the staff of the local council and the people, he is governing through the public relations officer of the local government, the secretary and other staff. He should take the same information to the councilors who are policy commission which is the overseer of the local government in particular states for adequate attention.

### **d) Directing**

Local government chairman also covers directing functions which does not work against the aims and objectives of the council. This should always direct him to lead the and technical staff in the right direction.

According to Joseph C. O. (1975) argued that "cases of corruption, inefficiency, nepotism embezzlement of public funds have been noticed in all part of local government in

Nigeria and these impede on their functions, especially accelerating the place of socio-economic development and the local development and the local level".

According to Professor P. F. Odeh in his book (1972), since the establishment of elected local councils in different parts of Nigeria in the 1950s the mismanagement and embezzlement of funds by both elected and appointed officials have been a recurring phenomenon.

According to Ademolekun (1983) he identified three major explanatory factors for official corruptions in local governments' procedures for managing local government fund, incompetence and ignorance of both political and appointed officials and the prevailing attitude in the society which appears to be tolerant of corrupt behavior on the part of elected and appointed leaders at every level of government.

Local government in Nigeria depend large on the state and federal governments, for their funds staffing and control from the above statement, it could be adduced that local governments are nothing more than puppets in the hand of the state and federal government.

### **2.3 Social and Economic Development Process**

This comprises of not only standard of living and per capital income, but also high level of employment, infrastructures, stressing values rather than achievement. This could be sub-divided into social and economic development process respectively.

**i. Social Development Process**

The social development process comprises of the provision of some basic amenities needed by the people in the rural area for their general welfare. Some of the social amenities were as follows making of roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, water supply, telecommunication and recreational centers.

This process could be carried out by the different contractors who are assigned to do the jobs. The process could be from the local government council, who assign some job to the local government chairman who has the power of directing, he will now direct the job to the chief Engineer who will design the job and assign it to the technical officer. This job could be supervised by the overall supervisor who is to give the final judgment of the job.

**ii. Economic Development Process**

The economic development process comprises of the provision of building storage facilities, irrigation, taxes, environmental sanitation, agricultural and veterinary extension services, controlling afforestation and so on.

The economic development processes could be carried out by almost everybody in the community. Order is passed from the local government chairman to carry out some certain assignment. He passes order to the supervisor for finance and economic planning who also passes the order to the chief accountant and from there to the account clerk who will now issue the money to the different contractors for their assignments.

According to Philip Manhood in (1979) he made reference to the people in the rural areas, since they are faced mostly with agriculture, they find it difficult to store most of the facilities to prevent spoilage, and the local government will now try to build a storage facility for them to store their crops for future use.

At times the areas could be affected by water, the local governments also try to construct irrigation channel for easy water supply to their various farms, in order to improve in their agricultural output.

These processes are carried out for easy running of the local government administration properly.

#### **2.4 Characteristics of Local Government**

This could be treated or sub-divided into two systems which could be social and economic level respectively.

The local government lacks some social amenities which could be follows:

1. Some rural areas lack electricity
2. They lack good education.
3. The lack good roads.
4. The lack good water supply.
5. They lack good hospital and maternity centers.
6. They have poor communication system.

In the economic situation, the rural areas lack some technical storage system, instead they will go on with their local system of storage.

Secondly, they are mainly farmers at subsistent level and partially commercial farmers of line or small product.

The History of Local Government in Nigeria Local government in Nigeria came into being after the colonial era. The system of native administration which was introduced by the British, it was later transformed into a modern system of local government in Nigeria, with the ordinance of 1950, an innovation which was subsequently adopted in some part of the country.

According to local government act of 1950 that brought into being, the foremost three-tier system, which include the country council (urban and the rural) district councils and local councils. Each of the tiers enjoyed a reasonable degree of independence and was given functions commensurate to its resources.

Due to the system of taxation and allocation of functions, supervision and control, corruption and mismanagement, it was replaced by the local government law of 1955 and further amended by the 1958 Act. This Act reduced the existing three tier system to two consisting of district and local councils.

According to (1960) local government law in Nigeria that renamed the district councils as country council but retained the two tier system of country and local government reform launched by the federal military government during the second half of 1976 is widely regarded as marking a turning point in the history of the local government system in this

country. In January 1977; the 299 local government created by the reform started formally to function. This was preceded by the successful completion of elections to fill the posts of chairman, supervisory councilors and councilors within each council.

To guide the work of the new local government, the federal military government had produced blue print called guidelines for local government reform. In addition to stating clearly the objectives of the reform, the guidelines also sets out clearly the functions that the local governments are expected to perform either in an exclusive manner or concurrently with state government. Another important step taken to assist the takeoff of the new local governments was the decision of the federal military government to write off all local governments' debts to state government and to make available to the local government 7% of the nationally derived public revenue during the 1977/78 financial year. The sum of money was made up of 5% of federal government retained received (a handsome total of N250 million) and 10% of each state governments recurrent revenue. It was with a view to promoting a clear understanding of this reformed local government system that about 150 practitioners, academics and other interested in local government administration and management were invited to a national conference at the university of Ife between 19th and 23rd September, 1977. A second objective of the conference was enable participants to take a preliminary stock of what the new local governments had actually done within the first year of their existence and to reflect on the problems and prospects of implementing the reform. This published version of the proceeding of the conference reflects faithfully the objective of that conference.

The 1979 constitution made ample provisions for the existence and sustenance of the system stating that the of local government by elected locally government council is under this constitution guaranteed, and accordingly, the government of every state shall ensure their existence under a law which provide for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and function of such council. They maintain a relatively autonomous status, the nation's local government became more appendages of over-zealous state governors during the infamous second republic.

The advent of the military government of "Buhari and Idiagbon" in December 21, 1983 ended the abuse which the local government were subjected to a fortnight attempt was made to revert them to their 1979 constitution and their structural arrangement.

A change in local government was embarked by the "Babangida" administration from August 1985 to December 1993. It was during this regime that local government became partially autonomous. Government acceptance of the report in 1986 led to the appointment of councilors into all the existing councils. The office of the sole administrator ultimately gave way to that of the chairman with the selection of councilors acclimating up the process. It became absolutely necessary to articulate the roles and problems of the third tier system of government with regard to how it has succeeded in enhancing the process of development at the grassroots level.

The last regime of late Abacha adopted a system of caretaker committee appointed by the state governors and five other representing the department in the local government.

All these were in the main effort that the rural people are receiving the necessary attention of both the federal and the state government through the local government.

## **2.6 Local Government Mobilization for Communal Development**

The new system of local government has provided for third local governmental activities throughout Nigeria. The federal military government strongly believed that it is only through an effective system of local government that the human and material resources could be mobilized for the development of our local communities. Under the system, political responsibility has been entrusted to the people at the grass roots and the principle of participatory democracy has the chance of permeating the political system at all levels.

The objectives of the new system of local government can be summarized as follows

- a) To enable the people to respond to the services and development activities in their communities through their representative bodies.
- b) To mobilize human and material resources through the involvement and participation of the people in the programme for the development of their communities.
- c) To create favorable conditions for democratic self-government at the local level and develop initiative and qualities of leadership among the people.
- d) To bring government nearer to the people and guarantee reasonably adequate functions, financial resources and staff for local governments.

These objectives conditioned the structure and many other aspects of the new system. An important element in the structure of the reformed local government is the special consideration which was placed on the population of the unit which now constitutes the local government area. The unit rural communities, villages and kindred groups which exist and function under the various local government depend on the sociological patterns of communities in the various states of the country.

The main burden of these studies is the question of mobilization for communal development. Before we can address ourselves to the problem of mobilizing the people for community effort, we may have to answer the question what is community development? In answer to this question, we may consider the definition which the United Nations and its agencies have accepted, "that community development is a process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities in improving the material, social and cultural conditions of the communities and in such a way as to integrate the communities into the main stream of life of the nation, thereby enabling these communities to contribute to overall national progress.

The techniques for mobilizing the people for communal development must take into account some of the important steps in the community development process are:

- a) The people must be involved in seeing that things are done in order to bring change in a given direction.
- b) The people should be so involved as to show that they want the change.

- c) The culminating point in wanting the change leads to involvement and participation in planning to bring about the desired change. Planning may involve not only assessing the needs of the community and the resources available for providing these needs.
- d) Involvement and participation of the various groups and members of the community lead to the general acceptance of full responsibility for the implementation of the programme.

Community development is centered on the efforts towards the mobilization and organization of the people to enable them to take concerted action on some social problem which affect them.

At this juncture, it is necessary to consider some approaches which may be adopted in the pursuit of these efforts.

1) Direct approach

By this approach, the community organizes goods for the people on his own idea and initiative.

2) Indirect approach.

By this approach, the people are involved in initiating discussion and consideration of the programme and they are assisted to arrive at conclusions which will motivate and stimulate them to take action in areas most desirable for their own benefits.

3) The felt need approach

It involves mobilizing the people to do those thing from where they are proceed with them at their own pace towards the goal which they have set for themselves. For this approach, it will be necessary to accept that physical and environmental changes are not the only form of community development.

Whatever approach is adopted, the most important factor is the understanding of the people of a community as a prerequisite for mobilizing them for communal efforts. It is necessary to understand the institutions and organization of the people and these may include their customs, religion, social structure, kingship system, sources of power, leadership and authority and the nature of cooperation among them.

## **2.7 Sources of Revenue Generation in the Local Government**

The most common form of financial transfer is statutory allocation. This constitutes the bulk of the local government revenue in Nigeria. This source of revenue has been a subject of long history and politics. As at 1989, nine commissions had been set up in the country since the maiden fiscal commission of 1946. Apart from these committees, there has been executive tinkering with the allocation formula, lie the amendments effected in 1984 and 1992.

The direct grant to the local government used to be 10% of the federation account according to 1982 revenue allocation act. It was later increased to 15% and in 1992 budget; it was further increased to 20%. It should also be noted that other grants ar made

available to local government councils on availability of fund from the grantin agency for specific purposes.

The existing sources of revenue generating in the local government are:

**a) Community tax**

It is a form of poll tax imposed across the board by a government authority on every eligible citizen. Until 1974, it was imposed on every self-employed adult whose annual income was below N600 later increased to N800.00. Since 1974, the composition of community tax has been left to the discretion of state government who act within the guidelines provided by the federal government. It is argued that poll tax foster equality in that it is uniformly imposed on able-bodied people who are self-employed. The political reasoning rests on the argument of reciprocity. For the fact that every citizen in a community enjoys some form of governmental services, he should fulfill his civil responsibility by paying one kind of tax or the other.

**b) Market fees**

In all the states of Nigeria, local governments are constitutionally and exclusively responsible for the establishment, construction and management of markets. Local government councils therefore collect fees from traders occupying council built stalls and even from displaying their wares in open spaces in the market.

On the average, revenue from market stalls constituted the second major source of internal revenue to local governments after community tax. However, marketer

administration is plagued with some problems which include ownership, cultural, poor quality of fee collectors, and lack of adequate infrastructural facilities.

The question of ownership of some markets remains with us till today. For example, there was a conflict between the traditional ruler of Agenebode, the Okumagbe of Uwanno Kingdom and the local government both in Ovia North-East local government over the ownership of Uwanno market, and eventually the local government had to hands off collection of Motor Park and market fees. The problem of location is usually rooted in the culture and beliefs of the community. For example, the Ososo community in Edo state rejected the new 90 market stalls built at a cost of N31,360 by the local government between 1980 and 1985 on the grounds that the sitting violated their existing institutional customs and beliefs. The market was built on their traditional burial ground which was forbidden territory according to the custom and belief of the society. In addition, ownership conflicts have also arisen between local government councils and the state government.

### **c) Motor park fees**

Like for he markets, local governments provide and maintain motor parks and collect fees from commercial vehicles using the parks for collection and discharge of their passengers. The administration of motor park fees is however, not without its problems, most of the problem revolves around the inability of local government councils to provide necessary facilities in improving the condition of their motor parks and to enforce the parking bylaws. For instance, some local government in EDO state do not provide their motor

parks with necessary standing sheds that will protect passengers against sunny and rainy weather.

**d) Commercial undertakings**

Many local governments derive revenue from the operation of commercial undertakings such as printing press, poultry, farming, bus services and food industry. These commercial undertakings are meant to supplement the internal generated revenue at the local government level. However, local governments commercial undertaking in most areas except agriculturally based ventures are not yet feasible due to lack of capital and inability to take business risks.

**e) Other fees**

Investment and revenues are collected from local authority. Facilities such as conservation, dispensary and maturity services are under various bye-laws such as hawkers and squatters permits.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The data for the purpose of this study were sourced principally from both primary and secondary source. This chapter is concerned with the sample determination and the population from where sample, were drawn, sources of data and description of the methods used.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

For the purpose of this study, primary and secondary data were greatly used. This is mainly because of the description and investigative nature was taken throughout this survey so as to ensure a relatively reliable and accurate overall results. Reasonable effort were also made to obtain information from the right people in the local government area and respondents were drawn from various categories staff and people in the local government so as to guarantee a balanced representation of opinions and information.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

Population refers to a group of things that have certain characteristic in common, the study population for the research work comprises of (400) four hundred from the local government. Among the population are local government staff, peasant farmers, indigenous teachers and businessmen.

### 3.4 Sampling Size and Sampling Technique

Stratified random sampling was the method used in sampling (by Yaro Yamani).

Formula:

$$N' = 1 + Ne$$

Calculation of sample size Where,

n sample size

N= population e margin of error

Given that;

$$N=400, e=0.05$$

Thus:

$$N = 400$$

$$1 + 400 \times 0.05^2$$

$$N = 400$$

$$1 + 400 \times 0.0025$$

$$= 400$$

$$1 + 1$$

$$N = 400$$

$$2$$

$$n = 200$$

From the above, the sample size is 200 local government staff, peasant farmers, indigenous teachers and businessmen.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection**

The research made use of both primary and secondary sources of data for the study. The primary data are those data gotten through the administration of questionnaires and oral interviews and also personal observations by the researchers. secondary data are those gotten from the review of relevant text books, journals, newspapers and other research work.

According to Kelly (1995), primary data must be collected from the workers or work environment to help in the study while, secondary data should be collected from other people apart from those directly involved in the study environment.

#### **Primary Data**

Primary data include the use of questionnaires, observation and interview.

##### **(i) Questionnaires**

The questionnaires consist mainly of closed ended questions.

The first elicits background information or personal data of respondents, which the second part is directed towards collecting information necessary for testing the validity and reliability of response hence some questions were posed more than once but in different ways.

## **(ii) Observation**

These were used to collect information on workers, farmers, businessmen and indigenous teacher attitude, views about the roles of local government. The researcher used a period of one week to observe the roles played by the government local to the economic and social development of rural area.

## **(ii) Interviews**

The project researcher made use of interview with local government administrators and other respondents in the local government. The various people, interview guide were used to collect more information from some of the staffs and to clarify their responses to some of the questionnaires.

## **Secondary Data**

Secondary data here includes consultation of published and unpublished articles, materials, textbooks, journals, newspapers and other written material relevant to my research topic

The search for relevant information took me to many government establishments such as Edo state local government service commission, local government affairs, Ovia North-East local government.

The research centers as well as some institutional and public libraries. Secondly, the nature of intergovernmental relations provides for a research degree of autonomy to local government.

Finally, the rate of nationalism and commitment to the nation is high rate institutionalization and also structure and role differentiation and reflected in the political culture and socialization process of their countries which in turn guarantees a will to make local government work in all these countries. Since local authorities in Nigeria are British creation, one would expect them to reform efficiently as those in Britain but that is not the case,

### **3.6 Validation and Reliability of the Instrument**

The instrument used was validated by the student's supervisor. The questions asked and the immediate answers gotten ere encouraging and satisfying.

Here the researcher relied mainly on interview schedule and questionnaires for both staff and other respondents. Researcher relied on questionnaire for the design of this study.

The questionnaire was design in such a way that all information gotten was presented in a way the researcher want it to be. Also the research thought of some questions that are very relevant to the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Introduction

A total number of 200 questionnaires were distributed to Ovia North-East local government.

#### 4.2 Data Analysis I

In the table below, the question "do local governments have any role to play in the development of rural area" Was asked.

**Table 4.1**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	130	65%
No	70	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

The table above shows that 130 people responded positively which is 65% while the negative respondents were 70 (35%). From the table, the researchers assume that the local government has a role to play in the development of rural area.

In table 4.2, the question was "has the local government succeeded in playing its role?"

**Table 4.2**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	105	52.5%
No	95	47.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

The positive respondents are 52.5% which is greater than that of the negative respondents which amounted to 47,3% in other words, the local government has to a certain extent succeeded in playing its role.

Table 4.3: Does low morale among the staff of the local government militate against development responsibilities?

**Table 4.1**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	20	20%
Agreed	55	27.5%
Strongly Disagreed	75	37.5%
Disagreed	50	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

In table 4.3 above, the response shows that low morale among the staff of the local government does not militate against development responsibilities.

Table 4.4. Are there any constraints militating against the success of developmental processes in the local government?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	80	40%
Agreed	60	30%
Strongly Disagreed	20	10%
Disagreed	40	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2025

From table 4.4 above, it is assumed that there are constraints militating against the success of local government developmental processes.

Table 4.5: Does weak financial base hinder the achievement of government goals in rural development?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	100	50%
Agreed	50	25%
Strongly Disagreed	30	15%
Disagreed	20	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: fieldwork, 2025

From the analysis of table 4.5 above, weak financial base hinders the local government meeting up with rural development

Table 4.6: Does the local government play any role in agricultural developments.

Table 4.6

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	135	67.5%
No	65	32.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

Analysis of table 4.6 above shows that the local government plays a very important role in agricultural development.

Table 4.7: Does the farmers benefit from the local government administration?

Table 4.7

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	150	67.5%
No	50	32.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

The analysis of table shows the farmers have to a great extent benefited from the local government.

Table 4.8: Does the people in Ovia North-East local government enjoy steady water supply

Table 4.8

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	80	67.5%
No	120	32.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2025**

### 4.3 Data Analysis II

In a nutshell, the inhabitants of the rural area present a problem of great complexity because of the continuing shortage of appropriate administration.

Moral, character and educational background should be the bases for selection appointment or election of representation to pioneer the affairs of the local government.

Secondly professional qualification should be another criterion for appointment, selection or election.

Table 4.9 Farmers benefits

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	100	50%
Agreed	48	24%
Strongly Disagreed	22	11%

Disagreed	30	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: fieldwork, 2025

From the above table, it shows that 50% of respondent strongly agreed and 24% agreed, while 11 strongly disagreed and 15 disagreed to the above question. In other words the percentages of strongly agreed and agreed are the highest percentage.

In the table 3.10 below a question is asked that, do people in rural area enjoyed water supply? The data to this question is collected and analyzed in the table.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.10 water supply

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	50	25%
Agreed	85	42.5%
Strongly Disagreed	37	18.5%
Disagreed	28	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: fieldwork, 2025

From the above analysis 25% strongly agreed and 42.5% agreed while 18,5% strongly disagreed, and 14% disagreed and agreed, has the highest percentage and frequency.

In a nutshell the inhabitants of rural dwellers present a problem of great complexity because of the condition of shortage of appropriate administration, not only in rural areas but also to urban areas.

It will be helpful to examine in broad terms, some criteria which could be used in administering in the rural areas.

In the first place, reasonable educational background should be carried out by the administrator to the rural dweller for people administration.

Secondly professional qualification should be based upon to know the rightful person to be placed in the heir of affairs.

**Table 4.12: showing that local government has role to play in rural area.**

	Yes	No	Total
Observed frequency	130	70	200
Expected frequency	100	100	200

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

Based on the hypothesis formulated in this project work, the hypothesis was duly tested and the results of test are as follows:

- 1) The level of significance is greater than the critical value, which means that local government has a role to play in rural area development.
- 2) The level of significance is greater than the critical value, which means that local government has performed their roles in the aspect of farmers in the local government area.
- 3) The level of significance is also greater than the critical value which means that people in rural areas have enjoyed water supply from local government administration.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

In this study, efforts have been made to look at the roles of local government administration in socio-economic development of rural area in Nigeria. Generally, scholars with different views have identified different problems responsible for the low performance of local governments. These problems include; lack of fund, inefficient intergovernmental relations, unhealthy politics, corruptions and embezzlement of public fund.

Base of the case study used, it was discovered that, local government administration has performed it roles in the rural area. In contrast, local in developed countries are effective, efficient and development oriented. This is because these countries are economically developed as a result their local governments are financially buoyant to carry out developmental functions. Beside the nature of inter-government in these countries, the analysis of the impact of local government in the socio-economic upliftment of its people revealed that it has made some impact in that respect. This is because of the numerous problems facing the local government of which lack of adequate funds is the major problem. The financial bottlenecks have led to the pattern of expenditure being incurred

to personnel emolument rather than capital projects which are necessary for improving the standard of living of the people in the long run.

Finally from the findings in the case study, local government administration has perform their roles to an extent but they might do better if enough fund is allocated to the local government and proper trained personnel.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

This study leads to the conclusion that local government as an institution, if managed well is an and efficient tool of development.

By management here, we mean that the local government should make proper use of its available human, material and financial resources.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

After taking note of the problems and roles of local government in social and economic development, the researcher recommended that:

- 1) Proper administrative personnel should be provided the rural dwellers.
- 2) More so, the high level of rural-urban migration should be controlled or checked. These could be done by providing those amenities (social or economic) that attracts people to urban areas. Such as; electricity, water supply, good road, improved agricultural tools etc.

However, the federal government should provide fund for the local government to enhance socio-economic development which will consequently improve the income per capital and the standard of living of the rural dwellers.

3) Finally, the rural dwellers should support the local government by helping to carry out development project and paying their tax (licensing etc).

## REFERENCES

- Adegboye, M. B. (1977) Problems and Projects of Local Government Internally Generated Revenue in Oyo State Nigeria. Department of Public Administration, University of Ibadan, University of Ibadan Press.
- Adekunle, O. S. (1978) Community Development Process. New York City, Longman.
- Adeyemi, J. B. (1983) The local government in Nigeria and their changes, Benin City, Ethiopia Publishing Corporation.
- Ajayi, K. (2000): "Theory and Practice of Local Government." Ado Ekiti, UNAN.
- Elaigwa, J.L. (2005): The Politics of Federalism in Nigeria. Aha Publishing House Ltd, Jos, Nigeria,
- Emmanuel, O. (2003): Local Government Administration in Nigeria MEF Ltd, Uyo, Nigeria.
- Geoffery, O. D. (1959) Organization and practice Local Government case studies in the printing industry London, Longman.
- Irebuom, E. M. (1991) Community development approach Vol 1 No 125 April p. 11.
- Omobudu, A. P. (1980) The New trends in Nigeria Local Government.
- Okoro, P. A. (1976) The analysis of New Local government in Nigeria. University of Ife Press p. 14. Obafemi Awolowo University Ile Ife, University of Ife Press.
- Philip, M. A. (1979) The local government reformed. Oxford University press, p. 2.
- Redcliffe, L. B. (1978) Financial Controls over Local Authorities New York, Pentheon, p. 1912.
- Rotimi, T.S. (et al) (1998): Federalism and Political Restructuring in Nigeria Spectrum Books Ltd. Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Stewart, J. A. (1971) Management in local government, a viewpoint, London, Charles Knight and Co. Ltd.

Weppa Wanno People of Agenebode (27 August 2022). In Wikipedia.  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agenebode>

Yaro Yamain (1973), Statistics. An introductory analysis, New York, Harper and row publishers, p. 75.'

**APPENDIX**  
**QUESTIONNAIRES**

**SAMPLE OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Effect of Local Government Administration in Economic and Social Development of in Nigeria (A case study of Ovia Local Government Area of Edo State).

This research is being undertaken by Oguche Francis Oba-Deslyn, final year student of Public Administration in partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Public Administration.

You are kindly requested to answer all the questions set out below. The information you supply and the views expressed will be treated in strict confidence. The information will be used solely for academic purpose.

**Please put a tick in the appropriate box.**

1. Does local government have any role to play in the rural areas?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

2. Has local government administration played its roles?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

3. Low morale among the staff of local government militates against development

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

4. Many constraints militate against the success of development process of local government.

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

5. Weak financial base hinders the meeting up with its goal in rural development.

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

6. Has local government organize any social activities in the rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

7. Local government has role to play in the development of agriculture.

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

8. Has local government see to the development of education in rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

9. Has local government build any market in the rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

10. Local government makes effort to provide water in the rural area.

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

11. Which of the categories of respondent do you belong?

(a) Businessmen ( )

(b) Indigenous teachers ( )

(c) Local government staff ( )

(d) Peasant farmer ( )

12. Has local government administration provide any scholarship to rural dwellers?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

13. Has local government administration maintain local road in rural areas?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

14. Has local government provide or maintain electricity in rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

15. What extent would you agreed that local government has brought any trade exhibition in rural area?

(a) Strongly agreed ( )

(b) Agreed ( )

(c) Strongly disagreed ( )

(d) Disagreed ( )

16. Has local government one time or the other provide desk and chair for student in primary school?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

17. Has local government provide any subscription for peasant farmers in rural areas?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

18. Has local government provided any subscription for businessmen in rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

19. Has local government provided any allowance or incentives for indigenous teachers in rural area?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

20. To what extent local government administration has provided any motivation incentives for their staff?

(a) To a very great extent ( )

(b) Great extent ( )

(c) To a very low extent ( )

(d) To no extent ( )