

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL SOCIAL-ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDO STATE**

**BY**

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**CERTIFICATION**

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## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated first to God the Almighty who gave the divine wisdom, strength, provision, protection and guidance during the course of my academic programme. To my loving parents, Mr.&Mrs. AMIH, thank you for your love, care and support all through my academic pursuit.

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The study examined From the data collected and analyzed from the field, the study concludes amongst others that, the study discovered that there exists a relationship between relationship between Local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area. Also, it was revealed that Relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area. The study also discovered that there exists a relationship between Local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area.*

*The findings of the study have provided vital information about the the effect of local government administration in economic development taking Egor local government area as a focus. It is based on the findings of this study that the following recommendations were made: The local government administration in Ndokwa local government should engage deliberately in plans and programs targeted at economic development and also harness the natural resources available.*

*The local administration should engage in rigorous staff training and development aimed at equipping its staff with the necessary training needed for them to be more productive and achieve economic development.*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Nigeria is a federal republic with three tiers of government: federal (central), state and local. Although democratically elected local government is protected by the constitution and development areas and autonomous communities are created by individual state legislation, elected local government is lacking in around half the states. At the state level, the relevant ministry of local government and chieftaincy affairs, or bureau of local government affairs, is responsible for the administration of state-level Acts governing local authorities. Local government exists in a single tier across all states. There are 768 local government authorities (LGAs) and six area councils in the FCT, totalling 774 authorities.

After independence, it was the 1976 local government reform that introduced a uniform system for the whole country. In the Second Republic, according to Fatile and Ejalonibu (2015), the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria sustained the autonomy of the third-tier momentum of the 1976 Local Government Reforms through its guarantee of a democratically elected local government system. The 1989 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in addition to the replication of some provisions by the 1979 constitution in its section 7(7) provided in 7(6) (a) that subject to the provisions; the National Assembly shall make provision for the statutory allocation of public revenue to local governments in the federation. It is this provision in

the 1989 constitution that freed local governments from the financial strangulation by both the state and federal governments.

Subsequently the 1999 constitution in its section 7(6) similarly reiterates the same financial autonomy of the local government. Further, about the political, administrative and even fiscal autonomy of local government, the Nigerian 1999 Constitution toed the line of the 1979 Constitution by enshrining the provision for democratically elected local government with an establishment that is well structured as well as functions that are well financed. Hence, section 7(1) emphatically holds that: The system of local government by democratically elected local government councils is under this Constitution guaranteed; and accordingly, the Government of every State shall, subject to section 8 of this Constitution, ensure their existence under a Law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such councils (FRN 1999 Constitution)

The interrelationship of local government administration and rural development especially economic development underscores the relevance and study within the broad discipline of public administration. In view of the critical importance therefore of both local government and rural development, according to Ibieta (2010), what affects them determine whether Nigeria or other third world nations develop.

As argued by Tiku et al (2019), the expediency for the creation of local government globally emanates from the desire to facilitate development at the grassroots level. The significance of local government is a function of its ability to generate a sense of belongingness,

safety as well as gratification among its inhabitants. All types of government, administrations, regimes, or political systems have so far made sure that this goal is attained. This kind of a strategy for ensuring national administrative development, as well as political efficacy is seen in the concept and practice of local government as an instrument for economic development. Whatever is the kind of government, local government is viewed essentially as well as regarded as the gateway to, and guarantor of national socio-economic development of rural areas in the country (Gaubu, 2004).

In the socio-political context in Nigeria, with multiple culture, diversity in languages and differential means as well as needs, the significance of local government as a tier of government with a view to fostering and engendering the desired national consciousness, unity, and relative uniformity as well as preservation of peculiar diversities and the socio-economic development of rural areas cannot over be emphasized (Tiku et al, 2019). Core to the creation of local government, however, is its propensity to facilitate a channel in which government and the people intermix, relate and more rapidly than any other avenues resolve or dissolve issues which may have affected the system. Local government administration has been perceived as a panacea for the diverse challenges facing rural population in Nigeria in terms of socio-economic development (Gaubu, 2014).

In Nigeria, local government is created to bring government closer to the people. The conceptualization of local government by the Nigerian Federal Government leaves one with no iota of doubt that it is largely both theoretically sound and service oriented to the people. It (local

government) speaks of representative councils with substantial control over local affairs for the provision of services and implementation of projects in their areas, to complement the activities of both the state and federal governments in ensuring socio-economic development of rural areas in Nigeria (Tiku et al, 2019). This conceptualization amply recognizes the desire for local government as an instrument for local government socio-economic development and transformation.

The desire to catalyze balanced development, maximize citizens' participation, as well as the arousal of government response necessitates the agitation for local government economic development (Ibietan, 2010). The local government serves as a type of political and administrative structure with a view to facilitating decentralization, national integration, efficiency in governance, and a sense of belongingness at the grassroots level. The local government is a unit of administration globally (Agagu, 2004). Local government administration is viewed as the root of socio-economic development in terms of dealing with the people which democracy is hinged on. Hence, local government administration as a grass root government is visibly viewed as catalyst for socioeconomic development of rural areas in Nigeria. To this end, this study seeks to examine local government administration and economic development of rural areas in Nigeria.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The place of the local government as the third tier of governance implies that a lot is expected from it, if the attainment of development is to be achieved. Local governments play crucial roles

in the economic development of their communities. As drivers of local economic development, local government administration work with the people of their communities to develop strategic visions for the future of their cities, towns, and villages, and implement a wide variety of policies and measures to bring these visions to life. At the most basic level, local government ensure a secure and stable environment in which economic development can take place. They provide physical infrastructure roads, water supply, waste management, information and communication technologies and promote public health, education, and environment sustainability. Increasingly, however, local government administration goes well beyond these traditional roles. Local government around the world are helping existing enterprises to survive and expand, fostering new enterprises, arranging workforce development programmes, promoting research and development, and taking action to ensure that marginalized members of their communities have access to decent livelihoods.

Ironically, looking at what obtains generally in the country, not much can be seen as efforts of the local government to move the citizens forward in Nigeria especially at Egor local government area of Edo State. Local governments in Nigeria have not actualized the four basic purposes for their establishment which include the enhancement of participatory democracy, promotion of local freedom of action or local autonomy, using the entity as an instrument for the enhancement of political integration and national unity and the provision of services for which they are the most efficient provider compared to other levels of government. With the aforementioned

problems, the study will objectivity seek to answer the following questions; To what extent has local government administration impacted economic development in Egor local government area? What are the economic development programmes and policies (if any) at Egor local government area? What are the challenges to economic development at Egor local government area? What are the necessary solutions to the issue of economic underdevelopment at Egor local government area?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The following research objectives will act as guide to this study;

1. To ascertain the extent local government administration has impacted economic development in Egor local government area.
2. To examine local government administration and economic development programmes and policies (if any) at Egor local government area.
3. To examine the challenges of local government administration and economic development at Egor local government area.
4. To proffer necessary solutions to the issue of local government administration and economic underdevelopment at Egor local government area.

### **1.4 Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses is stated in the null form;

1. There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area.

2. There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area.
3. There is no significant relationship between local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The study appraises the effect of local government administration in economic development: A case study of Egor local government area. Specifically, the study beams its analytical searchlight on the need for effective and efficient local government administration in Egor local government area.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The importance of this research work cannot be overemphasized; it is very significant and timely, apparently because of the state of local government administration and economic development in rural areas of Nigeria. The study unravels the need for effective and efficient administration in Nigeria's local government areas especially in Egor local government area of Edo State, the benefit it brings to the people in terms of development and trust in it bestowed on the public sector. The research work will be of immense value to other researchers, policy makers and the academia in general since the study would constitute an invaluable reference source for future research on the subject matter under investigation.

### **1.7 Conceptual Clarification**

#### ***Local Government***

There is a consensus in opinions that local government is an important and inevitable unit seen as the grass root level of government whether in a federal or unitary arrangement. The form or structure or the tiers within the systems varies. The United Nations Division of Public Administration cited in Ola and Tonwe (2009) views local government as a political division of a nation which is constituted by law and that has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or exact labour for prescribed purposes. Chukwuemeka et al. (2014), Asaju (2010) and Ezeani (2012) note that local government has the following characteristics including a given territory and population, an institutional structure. It is separate legal identity, has a range of powers and functions authorized by delegation from the appropriate central or intermediate legislature. Lastly within the ambit of such delegation, autonomy is accorded within its sphere of jurisdiction and competence.

The concept of local government particularly in a federal arrangement like in USA and Nigeria is routed in decentralized authority and power from the central/regional government to the lower or grass root level (Olasupo, 2013)). This in effect is to facilitate efficiency and administrative conveniences. According to Osaghae (1990: 84), it means;

*“a system of dispersal of power from a central government to other units or agencies of government”.*

### ***Rural Economic Development***

Maboguje (1980:30) opines that:

*Rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low-income people living in the rural area on a*

*self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this.*

Three features of importance in the above definition are:

- a) Improving the living standards of the subsistence population through mobilization and allocation of resources to achieve desirable balance over time between the welfare and productive services available to the rural subsistence populations.
- b) Mass participation aimed at achieving both allocative rationality plus equity with distributive efficiency.
- c) Making the process self-sustaining: It requires appropriate skills acquisition and development; capacity building; and availability/presence of functional institutions at local, state, and federal levels to facilitate optimal use of available resources and the development of the rural areas. Self-sustenance implies grassroots participation in development programmes geared at transforming their lives.

Lele (1975) posits that the realization of above objectives hinges on the interaction of the underlisted crucial variables:

(1) National policies: which include land tenure systems; commodity pricing and marketing systems; wages and interest rate structure.

(2) Administrative systems impinging on devolution in governmental structures.

(3) Scope for institutional pluralism: which imply devolution with the distribution of development responsibility among the normal government structures; semi-autonomous governmental institutions and structures, private, commercial and traditional institutions; and elective bodies.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

#### 2.1 Understanding the Concept of Local Government and Development.

The concept of local government is or has been variously conceptualized in numerous literatures in existence. In the words of Agbakoba (2004), a local government is a political and administrative unit that is empowered by law to administer a specific locality. He stated further that it involves a philosophical commitment to the idea of community participation as well as involvement in the government at the grassroots level which will invariably engender the much vaunted or desired socioeconomic development of the rural areas in Nigeria. One of the most generally agreed as well as acceptable conceptualization of local government is that given by Mawhood (1993). He conceptualized local government as a body separated by law and have local representatives as well as formal power to decide on a range of public matters. He stated that the right of the local government to make decisions is entrenched by the law and can only be altered by a new legislation. And that the local government have resources which subject to the stated limits, are expended and invested at their will or discretion. Ola and Tonwe (2005), viewed local government as the selection of persons rather than only election to constitute local government.

In the views of Ibietan and Ndukwe (2014), local government is defined area as well as a popularly elected democratic council. They went ahead to state that it has formal powers derived

from the laws or constitution of the land, to decide on a range of public matters or issues in consultation with other stakeholders, compassing traditional rulers in the rural areas. The formal powers can only be altered by a subsequent legislation or constitutional amendment. The local government has personnel, financial as well as other resources, from whatever as other resources, from whatever sources, that are deployed, expended, and invested at its own discretion for the execution of legally or constitutionally assigned and mutually agreed functions for the overt socioeconomic development of the rural areas.

Imhanlahimi and Ikeanyi (2014), elucidated that it is the adequate and relative power given to local government councils to perform their local or constitutional responsibilities or duties optimally. They canvassed for two types of autonomy for local government councils which are absolute and adequate but relative in nature. To Chaturvedi (2006), local government autonomy is concerned with the local body having financial as well as management, autonomy with a view to deciding and determining its own course of action. Collaborating the above assertion, Mawhood (1993), views local government autonomy as the relative separation of central as well as local spheres of government on the one hand.

On the other hand, be put forward that the central government should only play the function of monitoring the activities of local councils without any intrusion into their domain.

In the views of these authors or scholars, local government autonomy in Nigeria and in the other less developed nations globally, should be relative and not absolute. This autonomy entails absolute separation of responsibilities and powers, but relative and adequate autonomy should be

granted to enable local government councils perform their functions optimally as well as to also discharge legally or constitutionally assigned, responsibilities satisfactorily, but without under interference or restraint from the state and federal tiers of government. This paper argues for adequate local government autonomy within the ambits of the law or constitution for essence of socioeconomic development of rural areas. Local government autonomy remains an avenue for promoting socioeconomic development of rural areas based on the yearnings or priorities of the rural dwellers in Nigeria.

The concept of development also has numerous definitions in the literature. Some defined development as an act while view it as a process. Development is simply a process which creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social as well as demographic components. Todaro and Smith (2011) conceptualize development as a multidimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social systems. In line with the above conceptualization by Todaro and smith further views development as a process of improving the quality of all human lives, such improvement may include raising people's living levels (e.g. income, consumption, education, medical services etc.) via relevant economic growth processes.

On his part, Ottong (2006), defined development as the act of creating conditions conducive to growth of people's self-esteem through the establishment of social, political as well as economic systems and institutions, which promote human dignity and respect. He stated further that it implies increasing access to better life (improved welfare) and the freedom to choose by

enlarging the range of choices available. In the words of Effiom (2001), development is a process of social change in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action, define their common and individual problems, and execute these maximum of reliance upon the resources of the community.

Socio-economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society which is measured with indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy as well as levels employment (Effiom, 2014). It refers to society related economic factors which relate and influence one another. The greatest rationale for the creation of local government globally is essentially to employ it to assume responsibility for the socio-economic development of rural areas directly as well as also contribute indirectly to the development of the country. This development has been viewed from two fundamental vantage positions and or viewpoints: Socio-economic as well as holistic. The socio-economic perspective was hinged on the traditional definition that expressed concerns for social problems such as poverty, inequality and unemployment which must be alleviated to bring about socio-economic development in the rural areas in the country. The second perspective which is more current definition of development was blazed by scholars or authors such as Todaro and Smith (2011), that gave a holistic conceptualization that development is a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty.

Development invariably, must represent the entire gamut change in which the whole social system turned to the divergent basic needs as well as desires of individuals, and social groups found in that system, departs from condition of life extensively perceived as unsatisfactory toward a situation or condition of life regarded as materially as well as spiritually better. This current or contemporary conceptualization of development is thus holistic, taking into consideration all spheres of life, ranging from political, cultural, social, economic, religious etc.

Development as currently defined encompasses the comprehensive development of man as well as his environment in all ramifications in a locality, under a political setting or structure such as a local government, on a participatory as well as sustainable manner. This is better achieved through local government autonomy, which is, on the other hand, sustained by the local government's adequate performance of the above tasks.

### **Local Government Autonomy: A Road map to Local Government Development in Nigeria.**

The significant issues in local government autonomy began to appear in 1976 local government reforms. Prior to 1976, local administration existed rather than local government in the country. Right from the colonial epoch up to 1975, administration at the local level was an appendage of the regional and later state governments. This was irrespective of some reforms by the regional governments at the local level in the 1950s as well as after independence epoch by the state governments up to 1975 (Ola and Tonwe, 2005; and Ikelegbe, 2005). The commanding issues could be easily appreciated right from the 1976 local government reforms.

These commanding issues consists the setting up of representative local government areas, determination of population size of local government areas, direct allocation of funds to local government areas as well as the review of personnel administration.

The guidelines on the 1976 local government reforms began the autonomy of local government areas when they asserted that “membership” of local government areas should be predominantly elected either by direct or indirect elections from local governments or settings (Nigeria; para. 25). The fledging local government autonomy was driven into the Nigerian constitutions of 1979, 1989 as well as 1999. There is a clause that “the system of local government by democratically elected local government is under this constitution guaranteed” in section 7 of each of the constitutions. The constitution made an extension of this guarantee in section 8 to include the establishment, structure, composition, finance as well as functions of such local governments, by directing the states to enact a law to the above effects. And the state government have been obliging in this direction through the enactment as well as amendment of local government laws right from the year 2000. The significance of democratically elected local governments could only be underemphasized (Aghayere, 2008). The definition of democracy also supports this view. In terms of local government autonomy of the local government areas, democratically elected local government areas simply implies that the councilors would no longer be the candidates of state governments as was the case in the past. It implies further that councilors would be sure to serve out their terms without fear or favour except a councilor acted unlawfully.

Issues aimed at promoting the autonomy of local governments were also contained in the 1976 local government reforms. These issues ranged from ensuring that local governments can execute all types of functions reasonably economically by possessing a population of between 150,000 and 800,000 limits that may be divergent in exceptional geographically circumstances (Nigeria, 1976; Para. 8). This well-conceived policy has not been repealed since then, despite the practice. The reason for the maximum population size policy derives from the general minimum population strength which can support a viable community. With the population size against what had been considered a reasonably supportive population during the less politicized era of the 1970s, we now seem to have what may be referred as cap-in-hand local government areas. They can seldomly depend on their population but on external funding.

The Nigerian government seems to have done quite a huge effort to promote local government autonomy in the area of local government finances, without an iota of doubt, for the essence of their development impact in the rural areas. There has an enormous contribution on the part of the government with a view to promoting the financial autonomy of local government areas in two core ways. The first is through direct allocation of finances to the local governments. The second is through constitutional provisions for numerous of their revenue sources as enshrined in for instance, sections 149 as well as 142 of the 1999 constitution. There is a general notion among scholars and social commentators that local government are not living to expectation with a view to protecting their financial autonomy (Aghayere, 2008; Ikelegbe, 2005; Nchuchukwe, 2003).

On the other hand, the local governments have contributed trifling or insignificant amounts between 1993 and 2006 as their internally generated revenue (IGR) to their financial needs. The state governments as an external revenue source have not been quite helpful to the local government areas as their contributions have ranged from 0.3 and 0.9 per cent from 1993 and 2006. More worrisome, as Ola and Tonwe (2005) and Aghayere (2008), have noted, is that the state governments interfere with federal government's financial allocations to the local governments' statutory contribution of 10 per cent of their IGR to the local government areas.

Local government autonomy seems weakest in the country in the sphere of personnel administration; and it is one area which is not given consideration in terms of coverage constitutional but rather administrative provision. This perhaps is the rationale why the state governments through their Local Government Service Commissions (LGSCs), throughout the country, affirms monopoly of personnel matters in local government administration. The 1976 guidelines on local government reforms had only asserted mildly that local governments shall have considerable control over local affairs as well as staff. What is obtainable in one state is also applicable in practically all other states with respect to local government personnel especially by virtue of the meetings of the LGSCs across the nation. In like manner, the LGSCs exchange their annual reports to enable them have an idea of what others are doing. The connivance between the LGSCs and the state governments have put personnel administration basically under their control. Despite the advantages of this option, encompassing uniformity as well as reduced politicization

in personnel administration, local government autonomy in the matter is tremendously limited as well as can hinder their development impact in rural areas in the country.

### **Local Government and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria.**

Socio-economic development refers to a process of socio and economic development in a social system (society). It is measured with indicators such as Gross Domestic Products (GDP), life expectancy literacy as well as levels of employment. Socio-economic also refers to society related economic factors which relate to and influence one another (Ering, 2014). The delivery of public goods and services at the local level or the grassroots is aimed at moving the standard of living of the people to the next level (Angahar, 2013).

Consequently, the efficient and effective provision of basic amenities as well as social infrastructures for the people at the grassroots are key factors to the existence of any government (Balatilo & Ibrahim, 2004). Akwara et al (2013), contends that as agent of rural development, local governments are to utilize funds made available to them by both federal and state governments as well as their internally generated revenue to improve on the lives of the people within their areas of operation through initiation and attracting developmental projects to the local governments such as provision of access roads, water, and rural electricity. Apart from being a viable political and administrative organ for the socio-economic governments also act as the training ground for the breeding of grassroots democracy fundamental in national development (Ottong, 2006).

According to United Nations Development Group (2011), local governments are formal institutions, officially mandated to deliver varieties of public goods and services at the grassroots level to engender the most needed socioeconomic development. The assignment of service delivery responsibilities to local government is largely predicated on the principle of subsidiarity, which suggests that government functions should be assigned to the lowest level of government which is capable of efficiently undertaking this function. This implies that local government are proximate, and they can be expected to delivery services which correspond to local priorities as well as in ways which genuinely meet local needs. Moreover, local governments are institutionally sustainable. It is these two fundamental attributes of local government – their proximity and institutional viability – which makes it so well suited for autonomy to appropriate pro-poor services to usher in socio-economic development of rural areas.

According to Olabisi (2013), the need for local government autonomy is to allow the local government specific powers to perform array of functions, plan, formulate as well as execute its own policies, programmes and projects, and its own rules and regulations as expected for its local needs. This autonomy encompasses power to control its finance, recruit and discipline its staff. It is predicated on the fact that when local government has power to take decision on its own as regarding its finance and policies, rural areas will have the assurances of socioeconomic development. This is accentuated by the fact that local government is closer to the people and when local government councils have the powers of their own without any overbearing influence from the state, they could implement decisions policies which will enhance the socioeconomic

development of rural areas in the country without having to wait for the state which in most cases focus mainly on the state development and neglecting the rural areas. In Nigeria, there obvious cases by observation that the money meant for socioeconomic development of rural areas have been diverted as well as mismanaged by the state governors. He concluded that local government autonomy will make local government councils to have direct access to their finances with which to implement policies and decisions which will promote grassroots socioeconomic development.

Ehiri (2010), argues that inadequacy in the provision of social services such as education, healthcare services, etc. is a product of failure to grant autonomy to local government. He added that local governments have constitutional responsibility for providing essential services within the sphere of jurisdiction but lacks the financial autonomy to do so. This is in line with Imhanlahimi (2008), who contends that local government are legally empowered to exercise authority within the confines of the law or constitution. This is to enable them discharge legally or constitutionally assigned responsibilities, satisfactorily, but without undue interference or restraint from within or higher authority.

Samihah (2011), on his part states that the responsibility of providing basic essential services and bringing about socioeconomic development has been delegated to local governments as the third tier of government. He went head that the types of social services which a local government may require to provide include housing water, adult and vocational education, rural electricity, feeder roads, and transport primary health facilities and other social services. As a consequence, local governments have to effectively identify and target essential infrastructures as

well as social services at any given point in time, neediest areas, have systems in place to track expenditure on projects and be able to determine if the allocation of resources has an impact. The most immediate need thus is to grant local government autonomy so that they may be empowered in gaining an understanding of where the priority areas are and what the local governments are planning to do. It will also give citizens an opportunity to hold local governments accountable for the delivery of social services. Ezeani (2004), contends that local government as the closest government to the people is not totally autonomous. Its autonomy in relation to other tiers of government has been quite complex and sometimes controversial. He argued that the 774 local government areas in the country are contributing nothing to national development especially the area of social services. Nigerian local government system has changed from being an organ of bringing government and dividends of democracy closer to the people to an organ for compensating political acolytes of the ruling parties in the states. This has created serious problem and has continually hindered the socio-economic development of rural areas in the country through their autonomy. Collaborating these facts, Branchati (2005), asserts that local government globally are considered as strategic institutions for the provision of basic socio-economic, environment and other services. Their strategic advantage of proximity to the grassroots makes them valuable as well as viable for providing effective and efficient services required by the community. They can and should be engines of growth as well as propellers of socioeconomic development in rural areas in Nigeria.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

The theory that informs the discussion of local government and development of rural areas is the general systems theory. The proponent most associated with this theory is Easton (1965), who views the political system as a set of interrelated and reciprocally regulated patterns of actions as well as orientation, pattern which cluster together in equilibrium and that have certain needs of maintenance and survival. It is a phenomenon of whatever type, including physical, biological, social, political etc. which is an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it from the environment (super system) in which it is located and with which it interacts, processing the inputs from it into outputs for it.

The general systems theory seeks to argue that every system, including political system, has subsystems that make up the entire system. They are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. Where this is the case, there is said to be homeostasis (stability) in the political system. On the other hand, instability reigns in the political system where the contrary is the case and the subsystems, and the entire system are also unable to function optimally.

Input and output analysis of an administrative or political system is very significant. A political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour etc.) from the environment. These inputs are what

the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations.

Applying this theory of the systems analysis to the local government system, the local government system in the country constitutes the sub-systems. They must be well handled in terms of being given adequate autonomy so they can contribute to the socioeconomic development of the rural areas in the country which will appropriately guarantee the optimality of the whole (country) political system, as well as its homeostasis. If the reverse is the case, that is, if the local government system does not have the required thus autonomy to operate, then the much-vaunted socioeconomic development of the rural areas in the country cannot be achieved.

Thus, local government autonomy should aim at:

- i) Decongesting government at the center, thereby freeing national leaders from onerous details and unnecessary involvement in local issues.
- ii) Increasing people's comprehension as well as economic development;
- iii) Making programmes to foster social and economic betterment
- iv) Training people in the art of government,
- v) Strengthening unity and cohesion

This requirement would imply the reduction of concentrated power at the center. The local level will be involved in implementing socioeconomic programmes which attempt to reconstruct

the infrastructure necessary for an approved way of life. The consideration is that local government given its autonomy is in a better position than the national government to stimulate initiatives as well as inculcate the feeling of national consciousness and encourages drive and experimentation in the local people. The argument is that the role of the local government through its autonomy should be such that promotes better life, improve means of livelihood, socially as well as economically and a means to a better share in the national wealth.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The methodology of this study includes; the research design, population of the study, sampling and sampling technique, research instrument, and methods of data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Obasi (1999) posited that survey research design can be descriptive or historical in approach. It is of a historical point of view if it evaluates and explains past events with a purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of the present and attempting a reliable prediction of the future. It is descriptive when it unravels the major elements and characteristics of any phenomenon. This study utilizes the survey research design in which questionnaires will be used to collect data from the respondents.

#### **3.2 Population of the Study**

According to Schutt (1999:46) research population is the sum total of all the elements of units of analysis which a study is interested in. The population of the study shall include the total number of persons living in Egor Local Government Area in Edo State which according to the National Population Commission (2006) is 103,171.

#### **3.3 Sampling and Sampling Technique**

In order to investigate the interrelationship of local government administration and rural development especially economic development in Egor Local Government of Edo State, a total of

600 persons will be randomly surveyed. The field survey employs the use of cluster random sampling, which grouped the targeted population into the twenty (20) wards in the local government area. Therefore, 50 respondents comprising both male and female of voting age were selected from each ward which sum up to 600 respondents. Hence, 600 respondents make up the sample for this survey.

### **3.4 Sources of Data**

Basically, there are two major sources of data collection which will be utilized in this study. There are; *Primary Sources*: This entails gathering information through the administration of questionnaires which will be structure in line with the relevant objectives of the study, while the *Secondary Sources* involve the use of data from sources such as published books, journals, Newspapers, magazines, government gazettes as well as internet sources.

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

The major instruments for the collection of data for this study is the use of questionnaire. The questionnaire will be structured into two sections i.e. section A and B.

Section A will dwell on the socio – demographic profile of the surveyed as Age, Educational qualification and Occupational distribution.

Section B will cover issues that relate to the subject matter of the research. The questions will be structured along the closed – ended response pattern where respondents will be given options to choose from.

### **3.6 Techniques of Data Analysis**

The method of data analysis to be used for the purpose of this study is the simple percentage. The simple percentage which is a descriptive statistical tool of analysis shall be used in the analysis for the study and the chi square analytical tool was be used in testing the hypotheses in this study via SPSS 21.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals the analysis of data from the study's field survey that focused on the effect of local government administration in economic development: A case study of Egor Local Government Area. 150 copies of questionnaires were distributed but 147 were retrieved, making the percentage of the copies retrieved 98.0%. Statistical Package for Social Sciences, SPSS 21.0 was used for the analysis. The first section of the chapter deals with the analysis of the demographics of respondents, while the other sections analyze the main items which provide answers to the research questions and hypotheses for which this study is about

#### 4.1 Frequency Table

**Table 1**

**Gender Distribution**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	71	48.3	48.3	48.3
Female	76	51.7	51.7	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 1 reveals that, 71 respondents covering 48.3% of the sampled population are male, 76 representing 51.7% are female. Hence, this shows that more female participated in the study than the male gender

**Table 2****Age Distribution**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-35years	73	49.7	49.7	49.7
36-53years	46	31.3	31.3	81.0
54 and above	28	19.0	19.0	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 shows that 49.7% of the study sampled respondents are 18 – 35 years of age, 31.3% are 36 – 53 years of age, while 19.5% are 54 and above years of age. This shows that respondents between 18 – 35 years participated more in this research study.

**Table 3****Marital Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	77	52.4	52.4	52.4
Married	58	39.5	39.5	91.8
Divorced	12	8.2	8.2	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 3 reveals that, 52.4% of the sample population representing 77 respondents are single, 39.5% covering 58 respondents are married, while the remaining 8.2% representing 12 respondents are divorced. This Indicates that, more single respondents participated in this study.

**Table 4****Occupational Status.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Farming	18	12.2	12.2	12.2
Trading	27	18.3	18.3	30.5
Artisan	38	25.7	25.7	56.2
Civil Servants	57	38.7	38.7	94.9
Others	7	4.8	4.8	100.0
Total	147	100	100.0	

Table 4 shows that 12.2% respondents are farmers by occupation, 18.3% are traders, 25.7% are artisans, 38.7 are civil servants and 4.8% are into other occupations. This shows that majority of the respondents of this study are civil servant.

**Table 5****Educational Qualification.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No formal education	15	10.2	10.2	10.2
Primary	27	18.4	18.3	28.5
Secondary	38	25.7	25.7	54.2
Tertiary	55	37.4	37.4	90.9
Others	12	9.5	9.5	100.0
Total	147	100	100.0	

Table 5 shows that, 10.2% of the respondents have no formal education, 18.4% are primary school certificate holders, 25.7% are secondary school certificate holders, 37.4% are Tertiary certificate holders while 9.5% have other forms of education. It thus indicates that, respondents that are Tertiary certificate holders participated more in this study.

## SECTION B

In this section, the responses gotten from the field survey via the instrument of questionnaire was descriptively analyzed.

**Table 6:** One of the functions of local government administration is to create an enabling environment for economic development.

### Question One

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	21	14.3	14.3	14.3
Agree	48	32.7	32.7	46.9
Undecided	32	21.8	21.8	68.7
Disagree	27	18.4	18.4	87.1
Strongly Disagree	19	12.9	12.9	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows that 14.3% of the respondents strongly agree that one of the functions of local government administration is to create an enabling environment for economic development, 32.7% agreed, 21.8% were undecided, 18.4% disagreed, while the remaining 12.9%

strongly disagreed that one of the functions of local government administration is to create an enabling environment for economic development. The analysis thus reveals that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that one of the functions of local government administration is to create an enabling environment for economic development.

**Table 7:** Local government drives economic development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Question Two**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	19	12.9	12.9	12.9
Agree	38	25.9	25.9	38.8
Undecided	41	27.9	27.9	66.7
Disagree	29	19.7	19.7	86.4
Strongly Disagree	20	13.6	13.6	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 7 presents that 12.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that Local government drives economic development in Egor local government Area. 25.9% agreed, 27.9% were undecided, 19.7% disagreed while 13.6 strongly disagreed Local government drives economic development in Egor local government area. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents were undecided if Local government drives economic development in Egor local government area.

**Table 8:** Egor local government harnesses its local natural resources for economic development purpose.

**Question Three**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	31	21.1	21.1	21.1
Agree	15	10.2	10.2	31.2
Undecided	53	36.1	36.1	67.3
Disagree	26	17.7	17.1	84.4
Strongly Disagree	22	15.0	15.0	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 8 shows that 21.1% of the respondents strongly agree that Egor local government harnesses its local natural resources for economic development purpose, 10.2% agreed, 36.1% were undecided, 17.7% disagreed, while the remaining 15.0% strongly disagree that Egor local government harnesses its local natural resources for economic development purpose. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents are undecided if Egor local government harnesses its local natural resources for economic development purpose.

**Table 9:** The activities of Egor local Government impacts on economic development.

**Question Four**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	4	2.7	2.7	2.7
Agree	12	8.2	8.2	10.9
Undecided	27	18.4	18.4	29.3
Disagree	69	46.9	46.9	76.2
Strongly Disagree	35	23.8	23.8	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 9 shows that 2.7% of the respondents strongly agree the activities of Egor local Government impacts on economic development., 8.2% agreed 18.4% were undecided, 46.9% disagreed; the remaining 23.8% strongly disagreed the activities of Egor local Government impacts on economic development. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents disagreed that the activities of Egor local Government impacts on economic development.

**Table 10:** Local entrepreneurs enjoy comfort in doing business in Egor Local Government Area.

**Question Five**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	18	12.2	12.2	12.2
Agree	63	42.9	42.9	55.1
Undecided	31	21.1	21.1	76.2
Disagree	25	17.0	17.0	93.2
Strongly Disagree	10	6.8	6.8	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 10 reveals that 12.2% of the respondents strongly agree that Local entrepreneurs enjoy comfort in doing business in Egor local government area, 42.9% agreed, 21.1% were undecided, 17.0% disagreed, the remaining 6.8% sampled respondents strongly disagree that FIRS pay system ensure fairness and equity to individual employees. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, Local entrepreneurs enjoy comfort in doing business in Egor local government area.

**Table 11:** Due to local administration in Egor Local Government Area, foreign investors find it comfortable setting up businesses in the area.

**Question Six**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	21	14.3	14.3	14.3
Agree	32	21.8	21.8	36.1
Undecided	42	28.6	28.6	64.7
Disagree	39	26.5	26.5	91.2
Strongly Disagree	13	8.8	8.8	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 11 reveals that, 14.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that Due to local administration in Egor local government area, foreign investors find it comfortable setting up businesses in the area, 21.8% of the respondents agreed, 28.6% were undecided, 26.5% of the respondents disagreed, while 8.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed that due to local administration in Egor local government area, foreign investors find it comfortable setting up businesses in the area. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents are undecided if due to local administration in Egor local government area, foreign investors find it comfortable setting up businesses in the area

**Table 12:** There is relative peace to a large extent in Egor Local Government Area for economic development.

**Question Seven**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	32	21.8	21.8	21.8
Agree	66	44.9	44.9	66.7
Undecided	24	16.3	16.3	83.0
Disagree	17	11.6	11.6	94.6
Strongly Disagree	8	5.4	5.4	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 12, shows that, 21.8% of the respondents strongly agree that there is relative peace to a large extent in Egor Local Government Area for economic development, 44.9 % agreed 16.3% were undecided, 11.6% disagreed, while the remaining 5.4% strongly disagree. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed there is relative peace to a large extent in Egor Local Government Area for economic development.

**Table 13:** Egor local government administrative policies and programmes is geared towards economic development.

**Question Eight**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	18	12.2	12.2	12.2
Agree	46	31.3	31.3	43.5
Undecided	34	23.1	23.1	66.7
Disagree	31	21.1	21.1	87.8
Strongly Disagree	18	12.2	12.2	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 13 shows that, 12.2% of the respondent strongly agreed that Egor local government administrative policies and programmes is geared towards economic development 31.3% respondents agreed, 23.1% were undecided, 21.1% disagreed; while 12.2% strongly disagree Egor local government administrative policies and programmes is geared towards economic development. The above analyses reveal that majority of the respondent agreed Egor local government administrative policies and programmes is geared towards economic development.

**Table 14:** Egor local government engage in building of markets for economic development of the council area.

**Question Nine**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	33	22.4	22.4	22.4
Agree	48	32.7	32.7	55.1
Undecided	32	21.8	21.8	76.9
Disagree	24	14.3	14.3	91.2
Strongly Disagree	13	8.8	8.8	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 14 presents that 22.4% of the respondent strongly agree that Egor local government engage in building of markets for economic development of the council area, 32.7% respondents agreed, 21.8% were undecided, 14.3% disagreed; the remaining 8.8% strongly disagree that Egor local government engage in building of markets for economic development of the council area. The above analysis shows that majority of the respondent agree Egor local government engage in building of markets for economic development of the council area.

**Table 15:** Roads are built and rehabilitated by Egor local government.

**Question Ten**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	9	6.1	6.1	6.1
Agree	25	17.0	17.0	23.1
Undecided	15	10.2	10.2	33.3
Disagree	67	45.6	45.6	78.9
Strongly Disagree	31	21.1	21.1	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

From table 15 it is revealed that 6.1 % of the respondent strongly agreed roads are built and rehabilitated by Egor local government, 17.0% respondents agreed, 10.2% were undecided, 45.6% disagreed, the remaining 21.1% strongly disagree strongly that roads are built and rehabilitated by Egor local government. The above analysis shows that majority of the respondent disagreed that roads are built and rehabilitated by Egor local government.

**Table 16:** Egor local government provides soft loans to members of the council area.

**Question Eleven**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	22	15.0	15.0	15.0
Agree	57	38.8	38.8	53.7
Undecided	33	22.4	22.4	76.2
Disagree	21	14.3	14.3	90.5
Strongly Disagree	14	9.5	9.5	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 16 reveals that 15.0 % of the respondent strongly agree that Egor local government provides soft loans to members of the council area, 38.8% respondents agreed, 22.4% were undecided, 14.3% disagreed, while the remaining sampled respondents of 9.5% strongly disagreed Egor local government provides soft loans to members of the council area. The above analysis shows that majority of the respondents agreed Egor local government provides soft loans to members of the council area.

**Table 17:** Local tax system in Egor Local Government Area is relatively friendly.

**Question Twelve**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	12	8.2	8.2	8.2
Agree	47	32.0	32.0	40.1
Undecided	42	28.6	28.6	68.7
Disagree	29	19.7	19.7	88.4
Strongly Disagree	17	11.6	11.6	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 17 presents that 8.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that Local tax system in Egor local government area is relatively friendly, 32.0% agreed, 28.6% were undecided, 19.7% disagreed, while the remaining 11.6% strongly disagree that Local tax system in Egor local government area is relatively friendly. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed that Local tax system in Egor local government area is relatively friendly

**Table 18:** Egor Local Government organizes business seminars and workshops to youth and entrepreneurs

**Question Thirteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	32	21.8	21.8	21.8
Agree	48	32.7	32.7	54.5
Undecided	27	18.4	18.4	72.9
Disagree	19	12.9	12.9	85.8
Strongly Disagree	21	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 18 presents that 21.8% of the respondents strongly agreed Egor local government organizes business seminars and workshops to youth and entrepreneurs, 32.7% agreed, 18.4% were undecided, 12.9% disagreed, while the remaining 14.3% strongly disagree Egor local government organizes business seminars and workshops to youth and entrepreneurs. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed Egor local government organizes business seminars and workshops to youth and entrepreneurs.

**Table 19:** Egor Local Government Council trains her personnel for effective economic developmental drive initiative.

**Question Fourteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	32	21.8	21.8	21.8
Agree	17	11.6	11.6	33.4
Undecided	66	44.9	44.9	78.3
Disagree	24	16.3	16.6	89.9
Strongly Disagree	8	5.4	5.4	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 19 presents that 21.8% of the respondents strongly agreed Egor local government council trains her personnel for effective economic developmental drive initiative, 11.6% agreed, 44.9% were undecided, 16.3% disagreed, while the remaining 5.4% strongly disagree Egor local government council trains her personnel for effective economic developmental drive initiative. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents are undecided if Egor local government council trains her personnel for effective economic developmental drive initiative.

**Table 20:** Financial autonomy is a challenge to economic development in Egor Local Government Are.

**Question Fifteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	42	28.6	28.6	28.6
Agree	39	26.5	26.5	55.1
Undecided	32	21.8	21.8	76.9
Disagree	21	14.3	14.3	91.2
Strongly Disagree	13	8.8	8.8	100
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 20 presents that 28.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that financial autonomy is a challenge to economic development in Egor Local Government area, 26.5% agreed, 21.8% were undecided, 14.3% disagreed, while the remaining 8.8% strongly disagree that financial autonomy is a challenge to economic development in Egor Local Government Area. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed good salary and wages gives employee job satisfaction.

**Table 21:** Lack of trained manpower is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government.

**Question Sixteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	42	28.6	28.6	28.6
Agree	39	26.5	26.5	55.1
Undecided	32	21.8	21.8	76.9
Disagree	21	14.3	14.3	91.2
Strongly Disagree	13	8.8	8.8	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 21 presents that 8.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of trained manpower is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government, 21.8% agreed, 26.5% were undecided, 28.6% disagreed, while the remaining 14.3% strongly disagree lack of trained manpower is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed lack of trained manpower is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government.

**Table 22:** Wastage is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government.

### Question Seventeen

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	32	21.8	21.8	21.8
Agree	66	44.9	44.9	66.7
Undecided	24	16.3	16.3	83.0
Disagree	17	11.6	11.6	94.6
Strongly Disagree	8	5.4	5.4	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 22 presents that 21.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that wastage is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government, 44.9% agreed, 16.3% were undecided, 11.6% disagreed, while the remaining 5.4% strongly disagree that wastage is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local government. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agree wastage is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local government.

**Table 23:** Corruption at the local level hinders economic development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Question Eighteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	22	15.0	15.0	15.0
Agree	57	38.8	38.8	53.7
Undecided	33	22.4	22.4	76.2
Disagree	21	14.3	14.3	90.5
Strongly Disagree	14	9.5	9.5	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 23 reveals that 15.0% of the respondents strongly agreed corruption at the local level hinders economic development in Egor local government area, 38.8% agreed, 22.4% were undecided, 14.3% disagreed, while the remaining 9.5% strongly disagree corruption at the local level hinders economic development in Egor local government area. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agree corruption at the local level hinders economic development in Egor local government area.

**Table 24:** Inadequate trained workforce at Egor Local Government Area hinders economic development.

**Question Nineteen**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	21	14.3	14.3	14.3
Agree	48	32.7	32.7	46.9
Undecided	32	21.8	21.8	68.7
Disagree	27	18.4	18.4	87.1
Strongly Disagree	19	12.9	12.9	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 24 reveals that 14.3% of the respondents strongly agreed inadequate trained workforce at Egor local government area hinders economic development, 32.7% agreed, 21.8% were undecided, 18.4% disagreed, while the remaining 12.9% strongly disagree Inadequate trained workforce at Egor local government area hinders economic development. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agree Inadequate trained workforce at Egor local government area hinders economic development

**Table 24:** Low infrastructural development hinders economic development in Egor Local Government Area

**Question Twenty**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	32	21.8	21.8	21.8
Agree	48	32.7	32.7	54.5
Undecided	21	14.3	14.3	68.8
Disagree	27	18.4	18.4	87.2
Strongly Disagree	19	12.9	12.9	100.0
Total	147	100.0	100.0	

Table 24 reveals that 21.8% of the respondents strongly agreed low infrastructural development hinders economic development in Egor local government area, 32.7% agreed, 21.8% were undecided, 18.4% disagreed, while the remaining 12.9% strongly disagree low infrastructural development hinders economic development in Egor local government area. It therefore shows from the above analyses that, majority of the sampled respondents agree low infrastructural development hinders economic development in Egor local government area.

## 4.2 HYPOTHESES TESTING

### Hypothesis 1

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area.

H<sub>a</sub>: There is a significant relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area

### Question One \* Sex Crosstabulation

Count

		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Question One	Strongly Disagree	0	48	48
	Disagree	0	79	79
	Undecided	0	73	73
	Agree	221	74	295
	Strongly Agree	87	0	87
Total		308	274	582

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	359.491 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	472.510	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	300.023	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	582		

With the chi square test of 359.49 and an error level of .000 at degree of freedom 4, hypothesis one shows that data is statistically significant. Thus, the study accepts  $H_1$  (There is a significant relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area) and reject  $H_0$  (There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area).

## Hypotheses 2

$H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area.

$H_1$ : There is a significant relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area.

### Question Eight \* Sex Cross tabulation

Count

		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Question Eight	Strongly Disagree	0	56	56
	Disagree	0	102	102
	Undecided	0	42	42
	Agree	213	74	287
	Strongly Agree	95	0	95
Total		308	274	582

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	361.568 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	477.205	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	319.021	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	582		

Hypothesis two reveals a chi square test of 361.56 with an error level of .000 at degree of freedom 4. The above analysis shows that data is statistically significant. Thus, the study accepts  $H_1$  (There is a significant relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area) and reject  $H_0$  (There is no significant relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area).

### Hypotheses 3

$H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area.

$H_1$ : There is a significant relationship between local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area.

### Question Sixteen \* Sex Cross Tabulation

Count

		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Question Sixteen	Strongly Disagree	0	44	44
	Disagree	0	89	89
	Undecided	0	61	61
	Agree	225	80	305
	Strongly Agree	83	0	83
Total		308	274	582

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	345.126 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	453.815	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	294.701	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	582		

With the chi square test of 345.12 and an error level of .000 at degree of freedom 4, hypothesis three shows that data is statistically significant. Therefore, the study accepts H<sub>1</sub> (There is a significant relationship between local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area) and reject H<sub>0</sub> (There is no significant relationship

between local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area).

### **4.3 Discussion of Findings**

The study examined the effect of local government administration in economic development: a case study of Egor Local Government Area. The main goal of this study was to assess the significant impact of the local government administration on economic development. Having subjected the data collected from the respondents to statistical package for social science (SPSS), the outcome of the research revealed the following findings which include.

Firstly, to examine the relationship between relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area, this study the fact that respondents acknowledge the functions of the local government administration as pivotal to economic development. This is in congruence with literature as the United Nations Development Group (2011), designates local governments as formal institutions, officially mandated to deliver varieties of public goods and services at the grassroots level to engender the most needed socioeconomic development. The assignment of service delivery responsibilities to local government is largely predicated on the principle of subsidiary, which suggests that government functions should be assigned to the lowest level of government which is capable of efficiently undertaking this function. Although the study does not reveal if the actions and policies of the local government administration in Egor really translate into economic development as many of

the respondents were undecided about that, it however clearly shows that respondents recognize the key role the local government administration plays in bringing about economic development

The study undertook to establish the relationship between local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area by scrutinizing its programmes and policies. These programmes and policies were in varying nature ranging from human development through training of its staffs, youths empowerment and entrepreneurial programs, infrastructural developments like building and rehabilitation of roads and markets, granting of soft loans, providing an enabling business environment for foreign investors and also a favorable tax regime. Although opinions were swayed in different directions however it was recognized that the local government administration embarked in some policies and programs that were geared towards economic development.

Lastly, this study also revealed the Challenges faced by the local government administration as it embarks on its economic development activities in Egor local government area. Respondents acknowledged that lack of financial autonomy of the local government is a serious challenge faced by the local government administration. Ola and Tonwe (2005) and Aghayere (2008), recognized this fact and hinted that interference by state government in the financial affairs of the local governments are a factor inhibiting economic development. Also, wastage and corruption were also challenges highlighted by this study as hindering economic growth. Local government administrations cannot fully fulfil their potentials of economic development as Nigerian local government system has changed from being an organ of bringing

government and dividends of democracy closer to the people to an organ for compensating political acolytes of the ruling parties in the states. This has created serious problem and has continually hindered the needed socio-economic development of rural areas.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

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

This chapter contains the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations for the study. The summary of findings involves the scope of the research, its methodological process and relevant findings discovered in the study. The study conclusion examined the findings for the study from a broader perspective, while some recommendations were given as it relates to the findings of the study.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The study was designed to examine the effect of local government administration in economic development: a case study of Egor local government area. The objectives of the study include the following: to ascertain the extent local government administration has impacted economic development in Egor local government area. It also undertook an investigation to ascertain to examine local government administration and economic development programmes and policies (if any) at Egor local government area. Another objective of this study was to examine the challenges of local government administration and economic development at Egor local government area. And finally this study sought to proffer necessary solutions to the issue of local government administration and economic underdevelopment at Egor local government area.

The population of study of this research is made up of residents of Egor local government area, Edo state. The sample size of this study is 150 respondents drawn from residents of Egor local government area, Edo state. The instrument used for the collection of data was the

questionnaire which was administered to the study sampled respondents. Out of the 150 questionnaires distributed, 147 copies were retrieved. The data collected was analyzed using simple percentage and chi square analytical method to test the hypotheses generated for the study.

The study found out amongst others that there was awareness as to the role of the local government administration in economic development, however it was not to be succinctly revealed if they actively engage in that role through their policies and programs. The study also found out that, the administration of Egor local government strives to create an enabling environment for business growth and ensuing a peaceful physical and nurturing business atmosphere. It was also discovered that by the study that Ndokwa local government administration strives for human development and capacity building as it engages in the organization of seminars for youths and entrepreneurs, provides soft loans for businesses, engages in infrastructure development by building and renovating markets and also engaging in favorable tax regimes. It was also observed by the study that lack of financial autonomy was a hindrance to the economic developmental plans and policies of the local government administration. Corruption and wastage were also discovered by the study to be factors working against the development of the local government area. Lack of trained manpower and workforce coupled with low level of infrastructural development were revealed to be cogs in the wheels of economic development of the local government administration.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

From the data collected and analyzed from the field, the study concludes amongst others that, the study discovered that there exists a relationship between relationship between Local government administration and economic development in Egor local government area. Also, it was revealed that Relationship between local government administration and economic development programmes and policies in Egor local government area. The study also discovered that there exists a relationship between Local government administration challenges and economic development in Egor local government area.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

The findings of the study have provided vital information about the the effect of local government administration in economic development taking Egor local government area as a focus. It is based on the findings of this study that the following recommendations were made:

1. The local government administration in Ndokwa local government should engage deliberately in plans and programs targeted at economic development and also harness the natural resources available.
2. The local administration should engage in rigorous staff training and development aimed at equipping its staff with the necessary training needed for them to be more productive and achieve economic development.
3. The local government administration should engage in more infrastructural development, minimize wastage and corruption to the barest minimum.

4. Financial autonomy should be an ideal practice in both form and structure as it greatly facilitates the economic developmental plans and policies of the local government administration.

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## APPENDIX

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

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **REQUEST FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am an undergraduate student of the above-mentioned Department and University. As part of the programme, I am presently conducting a research on the topic “The Effect of Local Government Administration in Economic Development: A Case Study of Egor Local Government Area”. This questionnaire is therefore designed to collect the relevant data for the study. Your response to the questions will not be used for any other purpose other than the one stated above.

Furthermore, you are kindly requested to respond as sincerely as possible to all the questions as stated in the questionnaire. Please, tick (✓) in the space provided in the most appropriate column on each of the item.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **SECTION A: BIODATA**

Please, kindly tick the box that best fit the information given below:

1. Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )
2. Age: 18 – 35 years ( ), 36 – 53 ( ), 54 and above ( )
3. Marital Status: Single ( ), Married ( ), Divorced ( )
4. Occupational Status: Farming ( ), Trading ( ), Artisan ( ), Civil Servants ( ), Others ( )
5. Educational qualification: No formal education ( ), Primary ( ), Secondary ( ), Tertiary ( ), Others ( )

**SECTION B**

**KEYS: SA-STRONGLY DISAGREE; A – AGREE; SD-STRONGLY DISAGREE; D – DISAGREE; UN - Undecided**

Please tick the space that best fit your view

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	UN	D	SD
	<b>Relationship between Local Government Administration and Economic Development in Egor Local Government Area</b>					
1	One of the functions of local government administration is to create an enabling environment for economic development.					
2	Local government drives economic development in Egor Local Government Area.					
3	Egor local government harnesses its local natural resources for economic development purpose.					
4	The activities of Egor local Government impacts on economic development.					
5	Local entrepreneurs enjoy comfort in doing business in Egor Local Government Area.					
6	Due to local administration in Egor Local Government Area, foreign investors find it comfortable setting up businesses in the area.					
7	There is relative peace to a large extent in Egor Local Government Area for economic development.					
	<b>Relationship between Local Government Administration and Economic Development Programmes and Policies in Egor Local Government Area</b>					

8	Egor local government administrative policies and programmes is geared towards economic development.					
9	Egor local government engage in building of markets for economic development of the council area.					
10	Roads are built and rehabilitated by Egor local government.					
11	Egor local government provides soft loans to members of the council area.					
12	Local tax system in Egor Local Government Area is relatively friendly.					
13	Egor Local Government organizes business seminars and workshops to youth and entrepreneurs.					
14	Egor Local Government Council trains her personnel for effective economic developmental drive initiative.					
	<b>Relationship between Local Government Administration Challenges and Economic Development in Egor Local Government Area</b>					
15	Financial autonomy is a challenge to economic development in Egor Local Government Area.					
16	Lack of trained manpower is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government.					
17	Wastage is a challenge to sustainable development in Egor local Government.					
18	Corruption at the local level hinders economic					

	development in Egor Local Government Area.					
19	Inadequate trained workforce at Egor Local Government Area hinders economic development.					
20	Low infrastructural development hinders economic development in Egor Local Government Area.					