

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Democratization signifies a societal push towards establishing a global democratic system. In Nigeria, this journey began at independence with the adoption of democratic structures mirroring the British parliamentary system. Since then, Nigeria has grappled with embedding a democratic ethos in governance, as outlined in the independence constitution of 1960 and the subsequent Republican constitution of 1963, both advocating for the British-modeled Westminster parliamentary system. Following independence, the new political elite held the responsibility not only of institutionalizing the democratic process but also of nurturing a political culture that would fortify the inherited institutions from British colonial authority (Linus, 2015). There was considerable optimism at Nigeria's independence for the emergence of a fertile ground for democracy and development (Linus, 2015).

Democracy embodies governance where power and civic duty are exercised by all adult citizens either directly or through their freely elected representatives. It is built on the principle of majority rule, with due regard for protecting minority viewpoints. Moreover, democracies uphold fundamental human rights such as freedom of speech and religion, equal protection under the law, and the opportunity for full participation in society's political, economic, and cultural spheres. They also conduct regular free and fair elections accessible to all citizens of voting age. The responsibilities of democratic governance encompass providing social amenities such as water, roads, hospitals, markets, education, and safeguarding the state against internal and external threats.

However, Nigeria's democratic prospects appeared dim by the close of 1965. In January 1966, a military coup d'état aborted the nascent democratic experiment. The military held sway for nearly 33 years post the 1966 coup, punctuated by brief periods of civilian rule between 1979 and 1983 and 1987-1989. Challenges such as the breakdown of political norms, misuse of political power, erosion of individual rights, and blatant election manipulation hindered Nigeria's initial democratic government under Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa from establishing a robust democratic culture.

Economic hardship and a fragile democratic ethos created openings for military intervention, prompting political elites to exercise caution in navigating democratic principles and practices. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, politics were often fueled by primordial sentiments like ethnicity and religion, exacerbating poverty and underdevelopment. Against this backdrop, this paper aims to evaluate the impact of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu, Kwara State.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the relative stability of Nigerian democracy since 1999, signifying the Fourth Republic, there's a prevailing sense that politicians have fallen short in delivering substantial dividends of democracy to many citizens. Nigerians marked 21 years of uninterrupted democratic rule as a testament to political maturity, aiming to demonstrate to the world the strides made in democratic governance on the African continent. However, the 21-year democratic journey hasn't lived up to expectations. Those in positions of authority have marred the country with widespread political corruption and a persistent pattern of dishonesty over the past two decades. Bode-Saadu faces numerous challenges, including inadequate healthcare facilities, substandard education, poor road infrastructure, and limited access to piped water, despite being the administrative center of the Moro local government area. While scholars like Aluko (2008), Okoro (2011), Kenneth (2012), Ober (2013), and others have extensively explored democracy and its effects on social amenities, there remains a conspicuous gap in research concerning the specific impact of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu, Kwara State.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective for this study are to:

- i. establish the nexus between democratic governance and social amenities in Bode-Saadu.
- ii. identify challenges confronting democratic governance in achieving social amenities in Bode-Saadu.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What are the impact of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu?
- ii. What are the challenges confronting democratic governance in achieving social amenities in Bode-Saadu?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will contribute to academic knowledge. The study also will serve as a guide to policymakers and other researchers on what can be done to democracy and governance toward social economic development. Consequently, the study will contribute to the body of existing knowledge on public policy and waste management as well as environmental protection. The study locations include Isale Arihun, Malet, Ajegunle, Isale Basa and Sabo.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The geographical scope of this study is Bode Saadu, Kwara State of Nigeria while the subject scope focuses on democracy, governance and social amenities. The timeline for this study will cover 1999 to 2023. The reason for choosing the timeline is to cover the fourth republic. The reason for choosing Bode Saadu as a case study is that Bode Saadu is among the towns that are facing a serious challenge of good governance.

1.7 Definition of Terms

- a. **Democracy:** This refers to a system of government based on the acquisition of authority from the people, institutionalization of the rule of law, emphasis on the legitimacy of rules, availability of choices and cherished values as well as accountability in governance
- b. **Public:** This refers to the members or people as a whole.
- c. **Development:** This refers to multi-dimensional, referring to positive changes which affect the bulk and which dwell in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of societal life
- d. **Environment:** This refers to the conditions in which a person operates.
- e. **Implementation:** This means putting a decision or plan into execution.
- f. **Challenge:** This refers to obstacles encountered in the process of duty discharge.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews scholars' opinions gathered from secondary sources; articles, journals, and books on democracy and governance as well as development. The chapter consists of three sections, the conceptual clarification, the review of the empirical literature, and the theoretical framework.

2.2 Conceptual Discourse

2.2.1 Democracy

Yio (2012) sees democracy as "a system of government based on the acquisition of authority from the people, institutionalization of the rule of law, emphasis on the legitimacy of rules, availability of choices and cherished values as well as accountability in governance". He argues from its Athenian origin that democracy is viewed as "Government by the people with the full and direct participation of the people". But democracy in practice even in Athens wasn't inclusive within the absolute sense because it excluded women and slaves who were integral components of the Greek city-states. Democracy is defined as a system of choosing policymakers and of organizing government so that policy represents and responds to the public's preferences. Ukase (2014) sees democracy as a method by which decision-making is transferred to individuals who have gained power in a competitive struggle for the votes of citizens. It is a situation in which people have the opportunity of accepting or rejecting the men who are to rule them. He also views democracy as a political system characterized by regular and free elections in which politicians organized into political parties; compete for power by right of the virtue of all adults to vote and by the guarantee of a variety of political and civil rights. Cohen

(1971) notes that democracy is a system of community government in which by and large the members of the community participate or may participate directly or indirectly in making decisions, which affect them. Chafe (1994) sees democracy as the involvement of the people in the running of the political, socio-economic and cultural affairs of their polity.

2.2.2 Democratic Governance

Jega (2006) lists the constitutive elements of democratic governance to include; representation, participation, responsive and accountable governance, egalitarian society, transparency and accountability in both public conduct and the management of commonwealth (public resources). Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights (ODIHR) view democratic governance as a "system of government where institutions function consistent with democratic processes and norms, both internally and in their interaction with other institutions". According to these organizations, key principles of democratic governance are political pluralism, institutional accountability and responsiveness.

2.2.3 Development

Development refers to man's progressive qualitative and continued improvement of human labour (Chukwuemeka, 2013). Development is required not only to enable citizens to have higher standards of living and material advancement but also to realize socio-economic and political transformation also as attain technological feats over the environment (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2003). Development is viewed as "multi-dimensional, referring to positive changes which affect the bulk and which dwell in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of societal life. Rudeback (1997) says development is about the people, beginning from the grassroots where the majority of Nigerians live. Development involves a departure from the past to the new situation, which is reflected in the economic, social, educational and political aspects of a nation.

Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) said that development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. Gboyega (2003) opines that development implies improvement in the material well-being of all citizens, not the most powerful and the rich alone, in a sustainable way, such today's consumption doesn't imperil the future; it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the great things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to enhance personal physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances.

2.3 Review of Relevant Literature

In Nigeria, the transition to democratic governance in 1999 marked a pivotal moment aimed at addressing historical socio-political challenges, including the equitable provision of social amenities. Democratic governance emphasizes principles such as accountability, transparency, and citizen participation, with the potential to positively impact the allocation of resources and the delivery of essential services (Adejumobi, 2007). Social amenities, comprising healthcare, education, water supply, electricity, transportation, and housing, have long been challenging to provide due to factors like corruption, mismanagement, and inadequate infrastructure. Research indicates that democratic reforms can contribute to reducing corruption and enhancing resource allocation efficiency, positively influencing the provision of social amenities (Olowu, 2003). Additionally, citizen participation in decision-making processes can lead to more effective demand for improved social amenities, empowering individuals to voice their needs and hold elected officials accountable. Democratic governance, fostering an environment conducive to foreign investments and infrastructural development, can further contribute to enhancing social amenities (Olowu & Williams, 2008).

In the realm of democratic governance and accountability, scholars underscore a profound interconnection between the two concepts. Central to democratic systems is the mechanism of electing leaders by the people, establishing a fundamental means through which citizens can effectively hold their government accountable for its actions. Larry Diamond, in his work in 1999, asserts that democracy plays a pivotal role in cultivating transparency and responsiveness within the governance framework. According to Diamond, these attributes are integral components of good governance, contributing to the overall effectiveness and legitimacy of democratic systems. In essence, the elective nature of leadership in democracies not only empowers citizens but also establishes a foundation for a system of checks and balances, thereby reinforcing accountability and promoting governance that is responsive to the needs and expectations of the populace.

The significance of citizen participation and representation as fundamental pillars of a democratic system. Amartya Sen, in his work in 1999, asserts that democracy serves as a platform where a myriad of voices from diverse segments of society can be heard. This emphasis on inclusive participation is seen as a catalyst for improved decision-making processes and the formulation of policies that genuinely mirror the needs and preferences of the entire populace. Sen's argument revolves around the idea that democratic governance provides a mechanism for the expression of various perspectives, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of societal issues. By ensuring representation from diverse groups, democratic systems seek to avoid marginalization and better address the complex and varied needs of the population. In this way, citizen participation becomes a vital instrument in steering governance towards outcomes that are more responsive, equitable, and reflective of the pluralistic nature of society. Sen's perspective thus underscores the intrinsic value of citizen involvement and representation in fostering a more robust and inclusive democratic governance framework.

Within the realm of democratic governance, scholars like Shively (2002) draw attention to the close nexus between democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights. This perspective highlights the fundamental role that democratic systems play in upholding legal principles and safeguarding individual freedoms. Shively's argument revolves around the notion that democracy inherently fosters a commitment to the rule of law. Democratic governance is structured to operate within a legal framework that delineates the powers of the government, protects the rights of citizens, and ensures accountability. In democratic systems, the rule of law is not only an expectation but a cornerstone, serving as a mechanism to check and balance the exercise of power. Furthermore, the emphasis on human rights protection is integral to the democratic ethos. Democratic systems are designed to safeguard the inherent dignity and freedoms of individuals, promoting equality and justice. The rule of law,

within this context, becomes a mechanism to protect citizens from arbitrary actions and ensures that governance aligns with the principles of justice and fairness.

In the examination of democratic governance, scholars such as Fukuyama (2014) underscore the pivotal role played by institutional design. This perspective emphasizes that the effectiveness of democratic governance is intricately tied to the structure and functionality of institutions within the system. Fukuyama's argument revolves around the idea that well-designed institutions are essential for achieving good governance outcomes in democratic settings. Effective institutions are characterized by features such as the separation of powers, which prevents the concentration of authority in a single branch of government. This separation ensures a system of checks and balances, where different branches can scrutinize and limit each other's powers, preventing the abuse of authority. Moreover, Fukuyama highlights the importance of an independent judiciary in upholding the rule of law. A judiciary free from political influence is crucial for interpreting laws, adjudicating disputes, and ensuring that legal principles are upheld. In a well-designed democratic system, the judiciary acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the rights of individuals are protected and that the government operates within the bounds of legality. The scholar's perspective underscores that institutional design is not merely a bureaucratic formality but a cornerstone of effective democratic governance. When institutions are carefully crafted with mechanisms like checks and balances, separation of powers, and an independent judiciary, they contribute to the creation of a resilient and responsive democratic system. In essence, Fukuyama's argument highlights the significance of institutional structures in shaping the effectiveness of democratic governance.

Alkali (2004), conceptualizes governance as the exercise of political power to manage public affairs. He points out that governance borders on such issues as rule of law, accountability and transparency, development-oriented leadership, freedom of expression and association, responsiveness, responsibility, representativeness, efficiency and effectiveness. He argues that "accountability and transparency are the hallmarks of governance". Mimiko (2007) states that democracy provides a platform for good governance, and promotes systematic stability as long as there is an outlet to legitimately access power by the political contenders through the people's vote at elections." Kim et al. (2005) posit that "the institutionalization of participation by all people may be a cornerstone of good governance". Ekpe (2008) argues that democratic governance aims to create a conducive climate for political and socio-economic development and to extend the efficiency and effectiveness of development programmes in a society. Democracy is sweet because it has the power to facilitate development and it is meaningless without economic and social rights (Abiola and Olaopa 2006; Ojo 2006). McGill (1995) sees "institution as an instrument for action." Styhre (2001) argues that institutions are reflections of the socio-political values that surround them.

One of the major problems in Nigeria that is responsible for the failure of democratic governance is the lack of capacity on the part of the structure, system and operators of these institutions to achieve set goals. This development isn't unconnected with the very fact that a lot of Nigerians, including politicians and citizens, lack the proper democratic ethos to realize sustainable democratic governance for development. Omowuyi (2007) argues that: For those who want to promote democracy in a society like Nigeria, there should be an understanding that no one is born a democrat and that democratic life is an acquired or learned behaviour. This suggests that if we learn anti-democratic behavior, we will also unlearn it. For instance, for Nigerians to learn democratic behavior for good governance and development, Kofi Annan posits, "no one is born a democrat and no one is born a good citizen, it is only through diligence and education that we learn through the course of our lives to value democratic institutions because they ensure our freedom and safeguard our rights" (Annan, 2011).

Ober (2013) says: if democracy is to be robustly sustained over time, public decisions must respect democratic values while advancing citizens' interests. Democracy may be a sham if meaningful decisions, resulting in significant public outcomes, aren't made by free citizens, secure in their dignity, and acting as political equals (Ober, 2013). Dudley (1993), states the failure of some democratic governance in Nigeria might be explained within the context of the argument of Richard Joseph. Consistent with Joseph (1991) "Nigerians often seek to devise structures that will prevent the materialization of the state affairs they fear most, namely, that presumed opponents will take a decisive and perhaps ruinous advantage over them." With this kind of mindset, democratic institutions are bound to fail both in structure, content and implementation of the policies and programmes for which they were established.

Marshall (1992) discusses a social dimension to democratic citizenship in addition to civil and political rights, democracy can include social rights like social services, providing for those in need, and ensuring the overall welfare of others. This approach argues that unless individuals have sufficient resources to satisfy their basic social needs, democratic principles of political equality and participation are meaningless (Huber, Rueschemeyer and Stephens 1997). Abati (2007) identifies Nigeria as a country where the political leaders would not allow the institutions of state to function efficiently because this would have made it difficult for them to carry out the maximum amount of power as they do: It's as if the chief task of governance has been the frustration of public institutions. Linus (2015) writes on the challenges of democratic governance. He posits that Since Nigeria's political independence in 1960, the country has not had the opportunity of being governed by a willing and ready leader but those that can at best be described as "accidental leaders". This underscores the fact that most of our developmental challenges are rooted in a lack of sound, visionary and result-oriented leadership. Most Nigerian leaders have shown a lack of commitment to true nationhood and allowed personal ambitions and ethnic, regional also and religious persuasions to override national considerations. Chimee (2009) notes, that the three major strands that account for leadership failure in Nigeria are lack of ideology; ethnicity; and corruption. Nigeria, today, runs a democratic system of government that's expected to mark democratic values of public accountability; transparency; good conscience; fiscal discipline; and due process; amongst others.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The elite theory was originally developed by Mosca in (1923). The elite theory contends that societies are divided along class lines and that the upper-class elite pulls the strings of the state. The government is dominated by a couple of top leaders, most of whom are outside of the state. Power is not in the hands of elected representatives. The upper-class elite holds significant power. Wealth is the basis of power and the wealthy will rule. The wealthy can afford to finance election campaigns and control key institutions like corporations. For instance, the price of oil was influenced by the elite group from N86.50k to N145.00. The same set of groups sponsors electoral candidates, who determine who will govern and as such influence government policies. Such a decision is usually based on the elite's interest thereby affecting the majority of Nigerians. As a

result, it is difficult to benefit dividends of democracy and social development in Nigeria. The study adopts elite theory because it creates a gap between having and have not which determines the nature of development in our society.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the methodology to be used in this research work successfully. It explains the research design. It also gives details about the population and sample used for the research.

3.2 The Purpose of the Study

This study is to explore the main thrusts of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu, Kwara State. It aims to investigate the issues associated with good governance in Bode-Saadu. The study examines the relationship between democratic governance and social amenities. The study equally aims to examine the effects of democracy on social amenities in Bode-Saadu. It investigates the challenges of democratic governance towards social amenities in Bode-Saadu.

3.3 Research Design

This research is anchored on a descriptive study as its designed.

Table: 3.3 Workflow.

S/N	Research Objectives	Research Questions	Methods/Research Instrument
i	Appraise the effects of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu, Kwara State.	What are the effects of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu, Kwara State?	Survey Questionnaire
2	Examine the challenges of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu in Kwara State.	What are the challenges of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu in Kwara State?	Survey Questionnaire

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

3.4 Sources of Data Collection

To carry out this study, the data was collected from two major sources. These sources will include primary and secondary sources.

3.4.1. Primary Sources of Data

The primary sources of data for the analysis of this study was collected from the respondents through the design questionnaire and interview. The questionnaires administered by the researcher. The researcher conducts an individual oral interview with people of the region. This was done to elicit further information from them concerning the issue under study.

3.4.2 Secondary Sources of Data

The secondary data for this study was collected from textbooks both published and unpublished that are found to be relevant for this study. These already written works include; textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, and some relevant documents that are relevant to this research work.

3.5 Population and Sample of the Study

The term “population” has been defined by Odo (1992) as “the entire number of people, objects events and things that all have one or more characteristics of interest to a study”. The population of this study shall be drawn from drawn from five areas (Sabo, Isale Arihun, Maletе, Ajegunle and Isale Basa) in the town. The population is 156 while the sample size is 120. The sample size for this study is 120 but 112 were retrieved.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

Primary data is collected with the aid of a structured questionnaire administered to various residents in Sabo, Isale Arihun, Maletе, Ajegunle and Isale Basa. The researcher will administer a questionnaire directly to the respondents based on the sample size. The questionnaire is divided into two sections. The first section will capture bio-data information of the respondents while the second section focuses on information based on the concept of this research, using a 5-point Likert scale with “1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = Undecided, 4 = Agree and 5=Strongly Agree”. More so, the researcher will also interview in addition to the questionnaire.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The data gathered is analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for easy analysis. This primary data is analyzed through simple percentage.

3.8 Validity of the Instrument

The content approach to estimating validity is used to establish the validity of the research instrument. The questionnaire is drafted and submitted to the supervisor who scrutinize and evaluate the strength of the instrument. The correction, evaluation and suggestions made by the project supervisor enrich the research work.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

The issue of ethics in conducting research is highly adhered to. And also, ensure that high moral and ethical values are highly maintained; thus ensuring the protection of the right of individuals and organizations. In the case of the participants, enrolments are done voluntarily. This ensures that the persons engaging in the study give information at ease and do not intrude into their privacy in any way. The aspect of confidentiality also given optimum attention to ensure that, the identities of the participants are not disclosed.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings based on the administered questionnaire. The analysis comprises the results of the demographic characteristics of the respondents from each sample and the regression estimates of the variables. A total of thirty-two questionnaires were distributed and returned correctly. The survey cut across selected residents in Isale Basa, Isale Arihun, Sabo, Malete and Ajegunle. Statistics Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Statistical software was used for analysis to determine the answer to the objective; the study was tested by the pilot.

4.2 The Study Area

Bode Saadu is located in the region of Kwara. Kwara's capital Ilorin (Ilorin) is approximately 56 km / 35 mi away from Bode Saadu (as the crow flies). The distance from Bode Saadu to Nigeria's capital Abuja (Abuja) is approximately 299 km / 186 mi (as the crow flies). The Bode Saadu area comprises metasedimentary and meta igneous rocks which have been subjected to polyphase deformation and have subsequently been intruded by post-tectonic granitic rocks of probably Pan-African ($600 \pm 150\text{Ma}$) age. The town consists of five (5) polling units which include the viewing centre of Bode-Saadu. Pilot Primary School Bode-Saadu, Lakanla village, Primary School Lasaki Fala and Gatta Village. The spoken languages of the area are Yoruba, Hausa, Nupe and Fulani.

The Bode Saadu area forms part of the southwestern sector of the Nigerian basement complex which comprises Archean and Proterozoic rocks bearing the imprints of the Liberian ($2700 \pm 200\text{Ma}$), Eburnean ($2000 \pm 200\text{Ma}$) orogenic events (Oversby, 1976). This basement was a zone of basement reactivation and orogenesis during the Pan-African ($600 \pm 150\text{Ma}$) event (Van Breemen et al. 1977, Fitches et al. 1985). The existence of the Kibaran ($1100 \pm 200\text{Ma}$) event in Nigeria claimed by some workers (e.g. Ogezi 1977, Ekwueme 1987) on the basis of some Rb/Sr dates on metamorphic rocks is not generally accepted. Recent studies (Okonkwo 1992a, 1996) in the Jebba area to the north has demonstrated the polyphaser nature of the deformation in this internal zone of the Pan-African orogenic belt which involved ductile folding, shear zones, thrust faulting and nappe formation.

4.3 Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

Items	Frequency	Percent (%)
Sex		

Male	74	66.1(%)
Female	38	33.9(%)
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single	89	79.5(%)
Married	23	20.5(%)
Total	112	100(%)

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

The table presents the respondents' profile. These include sex, marital status. A total of 112 of respondents completed the questionnaire. The respondents consisted of 74 (66.1%) male and female 38 (33.9%) responses to the survey. That shows that the majority of the respondents were male. The majority of the respondents were single.

Table 2: Impact of Democratic Governance on Social Amenities in Bode-Saadu

Items	Opinion	Percent	Mean	Remark
1. There is the availability of tap water to all the five areas in Bode-Saadu.				
Strongly Disagree	74	66.1(%)	1.4286	Strongly Disagree
Disagree	33	29.5(%)		
Undecided	Nil	Nil		
Agree	5	4.5(%)		
Strongly Agree	Nil	Nil		
2. Construction of road network is executed on every quarter in Bode-Saadu.				
Strongly Disagree	62	55.4(%)	1.4911	Strongly Disagree
Disagree	47	42(%)		
Undecided	1	.9(%)		
Agree	2	1.8(%)		
Strongly Agree	Nil	Nil		
3. Democratic governance has improved healthcare services in Bode-Saadu through mobilization of men and materials.				
Strongly Disagree			1.8393	Disagree
Disagree	43	38.4(%)		
Undecided	57	50.9(%)		
Agree	Nil	Nil		
Strongly Agree	11 1	9.8(%) .9(%)		
4. Democratic government attracts and builds a modern market in Bode-Saadu.				
Strongly Disagree	28	25(%)	2.0804	Disagree
Disagree	65	58(%)		
Undecided	6	5.4(%)		
Agree	8	7.1(%)		
Strongly Agree	5	4.5(%)		
5. Democratic governance has facilitated standard new schools and proper maintenance of old schools in Bode-Saadu				
Strongly Disagree			2.0268	Disagree
Disagree	39	34.8(%)		
Undecided	58	51.8(%)		
Agree	Nil	Nil		
Strongly Agree	3 12	2.7(%) 10.7(%)		

Items	Opinion	Percent	Mean	Remark
6. Democratic governance helps to recruit and deploy qualified teachers to both Primary and Secondary Schools to Bode-Saadu.				
Strongly Disagree				
Disagree				
Undecided	57	50.9(%)	2.0000	Strongly Disagree
Agree	52	46.4(%)		
Strongly Agree	Nil	Nil		
	2	1.8(%)		
	1	.9(%)		
Total	112	100(%)		

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

Table 3: Challenges of Democratic Governance on Social Amenities in Bode-Saadu

Items	Opinion	Percent	Mean	Remark
1. There is a high level of illiteracy among indigenes of Bode-Saadu.				
Strongly Disagree	1	0.9(%)	4.2857	Agree
Disagree	2	1.8(%)		
Undecided	Nil	Nil		
Agree	70	62.5(%)		
Strongly Agree	39	34.8(%)		
2. Poor representatives at local level negatively affect social development in Bode-Saadu				
Strongly Disagree				
Disagree	5	4.5(%)	3.9732	Agree
Undecided	9	8(%)		
Agree	Nil	Nil		
Strongly Agree	68	60.7(%)		
	30	26.8(%)		
3. Community development is not adequate in Bode-Saadu owing to corruption.				
Strongly Disagree	Nil	Nil	4.2143	Agree
Disagree	3	2.7(%)		
Undecided	Nil	Nil		
Agree	79	70.5(%)		
Strongly Agree	30	26.8(%)		

Items	Opinion	Percent	Mean	Remark
4. Embezzlement by political officeholders affects social amenities in the area. Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree	 13 Nil 12 63 24	 11.6(%) Nil 10.7(%) 56.3(%) 21.4(%)	 3.6518	 Agree
5. The crisis between traditional rulers hinders progress in Bode-Saadu. Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree	 15 7 2 64 24	 13.4(%) 6.3(%) 1.8(%) 57.1(%) 21.4(%)	 3.6696	 Agree
6. Unemployment and underemployment bring setback to social amenities in Bode-Saadu. Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree	 2 8 Nil 88 14	 1.8(%) 7.1(%) Nil 78.6(%) 12.5(%)	 3.9286	 Agree
Total	112	100		

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The study reveals that majority disagreed and strongly disagreed there is the availability of tap water to all the five areas in Bode-Saadu. The majority of the respondents strongly disagreed that the construction of the road network is executed every quarter in Bode-Saadu. Apart from the express road (Ilorin-Jebba road) that was recently rehabilitated, there is no any other motorable road in the town. The respondents disagreed that democratic governance has improved healthcare services in Bode-Saadu through the mobilization of men and materials. The only government hospital builds along the Sabo area has been dilapidated and no longer functioning. A clinic is now a place where goats, sheep, rams spend their daylight. The finding also revealed that respondents disagreed that democratic government attracts and builds a modern market in Bode-Saadu. Because of this, therefore, they maintain their 5days market.

It is also discovered that majority of the respondents disagreed that democratic governance has facilitated standard new schools and proper maintenance of old schools in Bode-Saadu. There is no institution in the town. The Government secondary school Bode-Saadu built by Kwara State government has inadequate teachers. Many teachers are always out of duties since the majority of them are non-indigenes, they usually attend school for three days (Monday –Wednesday). While the respondents strongly disagreed that democratic governance helps to recruit and deploy qualified teachers to both Primary and Secondary Schools to Bode-Saadu.

The finding shows that there is a high level of illiteracy among indigenes of Bode-Saadu according to respondents. The majority of the respondent agreed that poor representatives at local level negatively affects social amenities in the area. The majority of the respondents agreed that community development is not adequate in Bode-Saadu owing to corruption. The majority of the respondents also agreed that embezzlement by political office holders' affects social amenities in the area. This is similar to Ezeani (2004), states corruption remains a major problem which has constrained local government, especially in developing countries from contributing meaningfully to the upliftment of the standard of living of the local people.

The respondents agreed that the crisis between traditional rulers hinders progress in Bode-Saadu. For instance, there is a conflict of interest over who owns the leadership of Bode-Saadu between Magaji of Bode-Saadu and Daudu of Lanwa District. The Magaji is the son of the soil while Daudu is not but appointed and imposed on Lanwa District in which Bode-Saadu town. Daudu's palace is situated at Bode-Saadu opposite Magaji's Family Compound.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study revealed that majority disagreed and strongly disagreed there is the availability of tap water to all the five areas in Bode-Saadu. Respondents strongly disagreed that the construction of the road network is executed every quarter in Bode-Saadu. Apart from the express road (Ilorin-Jebba road) that was recently rehabilitated, there is no any other motorable road in the town. The respondents disagreed that democratic governance has improved healthcare services in Bode-Saadu through the mobilization of men and materials. The only government hospital builds along the Sabo area has been dilapidated and no longer functioning. A clinic is now a place where goats, sheep, rams spend their daylight. The finding also revealed that respondents disagreed that democratic government attracts and builds a modern market in Bode-Saadu. Because of this, therefore, they maintain their 5days market. It is also discovered that majority of the respondents disagreed that democratic governance has facilitated standard new schools and proper maintenance of old schools in Bode-Saadu. There is no institution in the town. The Government secondary school Bode-Saadu built by Kwara State government has inadequate teachers. Many teachers are always out of duties since the majority of them are non-indigenes, they usually attend school for three days (Monday –Wednesday). While the respondents strongly disagreed that democratic governance helps to recruit and deploy qualified teachers to both Primary and Secondary Schools to Bode-Saadu.

The finding shows that there is a high level of illiteracy among indigenes of Bode-Saadu according to respondents. The majority of the respondent agreed that poor representatives at local level negatively affects social amenities in the area. The majority of the respondents agreed that community development is not adequate in Bode-Saadu owing to corruption. The majority of the respondents also agreed that embezzlement by political office holders' affects social amenities in the area.

5.2 Conclusion

The paper examined the impact and challenges of democratic governance on social amenities in Bode-Saadu. The study concluded that social amenities are largely undermined in Bode-Saadu owing to poor representatives', illiteracy, corruption and unnecessary political interference.

5.3 Recommendations

The Kwara State government should improve and channel tap water to all areas to prevent people from drinking Arihun and Osin streams, well water, as well as a borehole. The healthcare services should be improved through the provision and mobilization of men and materials. Bode-Saadu as the headquarter of Moro local government should not be under the control of Ilorin anymore because the traditional ruler and political appointees are selected and appointed from Ilorin and this affects the development of the area. Political office holders should generate the political will to invest in infrastructure to aid the development of Bode-Saadu. The fight against corruption must be sincerely carried out. An appointment should be based on political or religious affiliation, but merit. Political consideration in awarding contracts should be discouraged. People should be enlightened, employed and empowered. Periodic monitoring of local government projects should be encouraged. The people of Bode-Saadu should be encouraged and sponsored for advance studies instead of seeing Secondary School Certificate as the apex.

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