

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(A CASE STUDY OF ILORIN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

BY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined Local Government and the Challenges of Rural Development in Nigeria from 1999 till date. The key problem facing most local governments is lack of adequate finance to implement various developmental programmes especially at the rural areas. The study adopted secondary source in collection of data. This paper argued that local governments were faced with such challenges like inadequate finance, corruption, poor implementation of projects, lack of competent manpower, high level of illiteracy, lack of due consultation and non-involvement of local dwellers in policy decisions and hijack of local government allocation by the state government. The paper therefore recommended an upward review of statutory allocations to local councils as well as direct disbursement of funds to local governments, better welfare package to workers and open administration that encourages local participation

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The study of the development of local government as a tier of government in Nigeria will not be meaningful, if it is not preceded by an examination of the philosophical consideration underlying the local government system (Alex, 2017). The structure, composition and functions of local government are influenced by the political beliefs of those who have the authority and responsibility for determining the main features of the local government system.

This relationship between values or political beliefs and structure for the distribution of powers in society has been argued by Stanley Hoffmann (1959:113) as he wrote: any preference for a certain scheme of area division of powers presupposes a decision on the ends for which power is to be exercised – a decision on the values power should serve and on the ways in which these values will be served.

Regardless of nomenclature, local government is a creation of British colonial rule in Nigeria. It has overtime experienced change in name, structure and composition; Between 1930s and 1940s, for instance, local government was known as chief-in-council and chief-and-council, where traditional rulers were given pride of place in the scheme of things. In the 1950s, election was introduced according to the British model in the western and eastern parts of the country with some measure of autonomy in personnel, financial and general administration (Nwabueze, 2020). It was on this premise that the rising tide of progress, growth and development experienced in the local governments in these areas was based.

During this period, heterogeneity was the hallmark of local government as there was no uniformity in the system and the level of development was also remarkably different. The

introduction of 1976 reforms by military administration of General Obasanjo brought about uniformity in the administrative structure of the system. The reforms introduced a multi-purpose single tier local government system (Ajayi, 2021).

The reforms also introduced population criterion under which a local government could be created. Consequently, a population of within 150,000 to 800,000 was considered feasible for a local government. This was done to avoid the creation of non-viable local council and for easy accessibility. There was provision for elective positions having the chairman as executive head of local government with supervisory councilors constituting the cabinet. This was complemented by the bureaucrats and professionals, such as Doctors, Engineers etc who were charged with the responsibility of implementing policies (1976 Guidelines).

In 1991, a major landmark reform was introduced as the system had legislative arm. In addition, the Babangida administration increased the number of local government from 301 in 1976 to 453 in 1989 and 589 in 1991, the Abacha regime also increased the number to 774 local councils that we have today and the administrative structure also underwent some changes (Ajayi, 2010).

No nation attains its development potentials without providing adequate supports mechanism that enhances rural potentials for positive progress in rural areas. This is because; the rural areas are the suppliers of the means in which the national government feed it budgets (Onibokukun, 2020). Thus, rural development is very fundamental and crucial in national development. Rural development is further concerned with the improvement of conditions of the low income populace living in the rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities (Mabogule, 2021). It implies that a broad based reorganization and mobilization of rural masses and resources to enhance the capacity of

rural population to cope efficiently with the daily tasks of their lives. Rural development is mainly concerned with enhancement and transformation of social, mental, economic, institutional and environmental conditions of low income dwellers through the enlistment and rational utilization of their human, natural and institutional resources aimed at improving their capacities to cope with tasks of life and demands of contemporary times (Okoli and Onah, 2020).

Rural development involves multi-sectorial activities including advancement in agriculture, promote rural- industrial actions and the establishment of appropriate decentralized structures that fosters mass participation in development process. Rural development is faced with the paradox that the production oriented rural economy relies heavily on non-productive people who are all ill-equipped with outdated tools, technical information , scientific and cultural training and whose traditional roles and access to resources pose significant threat to their effective incorporation into modern economics systems (Onibokun, 2020). These and many reasons led to the creation of local government in Nigeria. The creation of local government in any nation stems from the need to facilitate development at the grassroots. The importance of local government among others is a function of its capacity to generate sense of belongingness, safety and satisfaction among its populace .

In Nigeria socio –political context, with multiplicity of culture, diversity of languages and differentiated needs and means, the importance of local government in ensuring unity and preserving peculiar diversities cannot be overlooked. In spite of the relevance of local government, there are some problems that impede the performance of its functions especially in areas of service delivery at the grassroots. In terms of economic development, quality of life, access to opportunities, facilities and amenities, standard of living and general viability, the gap between the urban and rural areas in Nigeria is very wide. The rural areas are grossly neglected as far as

development projects and infrastructure are concerned. The challenges and prospects of rural development in Nigeria have been of great concern to the different tiers of government due to the rate of rural-urban migration.

1.2 Statement of problem

The key problem facing most local governments is lack of adequate finance to implement various developmental programmes. It would be recalled that since early 1990s, there have been tremendous increase in the total amount of funds available to local governments in Nigeria. The reasons for the lack of adequate finance can be attributed to the fact that local government allocations are been hijacked by state governors, used for electioneering campaigns and shared among political God-fathers and members of state assemblies. This fact was indicated by the Central Bank of Nigeria in its economic report for the third quarter of 2011 when it announced that the total receipts by the 774 local government councils from the federation and VAT pool Accounts for the period of July, August and September was #493.77billion.

The media report of Monday, December 26, 2011 indicated how allocations to local government areas were been hijacked by state governors and at times out rightly diverted to non-existing projects. Also, state governors have used the joint Account to siphon local government allocations from the federation account. Akhabue (2011) pointed out that the last criminal fad was that state governors redistributed allocations to local government from the federation account and gave less than #20million to each council to pay salaries, and take care of their overhead costs. All these corruptive activities had added in no small measure to the problem of inadequate finance which has made effective services delivery at the rural areas to be impossible. This paper therefore tends to address this problem of inadequate finance which has posed serious challenge to the

development at the rural areas. buogous allocation to local government do not get to the hands of local government practitioners for proper service delivery.

1.3 Research questions

1. what are the local government administration services towards rural development?
2. What are the impact of local government through the visible infrastructural development in rural communities?
3. What are the the constraint or problems facing local government in rural development?

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1. To examine the local government administration services as an agent of development.
2. To examine the impact of local government through the visible infrastructural development in rural communities.
3. To know the constraint or problems facing local government in rural development.
4. To recommend solution to the challenges facing local government in rural development.

1.5 Research hypotheses

Ho1: local government administrative services does not serve as an agent of rural development

Ho2: local government does not has any significant impact on visible infrastructural development in rural communities

Ho3: There is no relationship between local government and challenges of rural development.

1.6 Significance of the study

The significance of the study is to determine the role at local government council as it affects the socio-economic development of the nation.

The knowledge of the significance of the local government will not only led to comprehensive understanding of what local government stand for but it will also put us in the right frame of mind to make up local government administration responsibility as the need arise in the future. Hence, this write up also attempts to focus on some of those obstacles which are encountered in the attainment of this noble course.

- Showing the inter-relationship existing between the state and local government which is very crucial to the nation economic transformation.
- It also serves as source of transformation to researchers and scholars who may wish to go indebt into ways which local government administration serve as an antenna to national transformation.
- To formulate and execute policies for the local government in the enforcement of local government policies bylaw and revenue collection.
- It gives information and public enlightenment.
- The findings of this study will contribute to the body of existing knowledge.
- This findings will also assist the decision makers in making decision.

1.7 Scope of the study

The scope of this study is the chosen case study Ilorin West Local Government Area and its rural environment, the topic entails a very wide range but gracefully limited to a local level. However, there are relevance and similarities in a various local authorities, management principle and organization performance but to major concern is rural development.

Nevertheless, in this research work facts and data are the best and accurate and much relevant to the topic chosen.

1.8 Limitation of the study

Limitation of this study is financial constraint, thus additional pages could not be added owing to the economic situation in the country. Another limitation of this study is the time constraint. Thus the time allocated for this research work is too small and there are other academic activities requiring my attention. Finally this research exercise is limited due to variability of relevance information from Ilorin-West LGA, Kwara State.

1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Statutory Status: The local government enjoys statutory status i.e it is created by a specific law or statute.

Autonomous Status: Autonomy of the local governments is the natural consequence of their statutory status. Since the local governments are created by an act of the legislature, that Act lays down their powers, functions and relationship with central or state government.

Local Participation: Participation of the local people in decision making and administration of the local authority is important that is what gives it the character of self – government.

Local Accountability: Since local government provides services of local nature called civil amenities like sanitation, education, transport etc. to the people of the area, it is appropriate that it is accountable to the local people.

Local Finances: Local governments have two main sources of finances: (1) grants-in-aid given by the central or state government and (2) taxes and levies imposed by the local governments themselves.

Social Services for the Local People: The main objective of the local government is to provide certain civic amenities to the people of its area at their door – step. The provision of these services ensures healthy living of local community.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Local Government

The term local government is difficult to conceptualized just like several social science concepts, the concept of local government has been perceived and conceived in several ways depending on the scholar's orientation (Fatil, J.O, Fajoyomi, S.O, Adejuwon, 2017).Michael, (2013)on his part posited that it is not easy to really conceptualize local government just like many concepts in social sciences, having a universally acceptable meaning of the term has always been problematic. The exact meaning of local government varies from one nation to another and in most cases the purpose for which local governments are created is been used to define it.

Local government as a concept has attracted several definitions. But unlike other concepts, it has not generated much controversy as to its actual meaning. A sketch of some of these definitions could be helpful. Local government can be defined as the substructure upon which the superstructures of state and federal governments are erected. Yet, Bello Iman (in Akhakpe, 2011) defines local government as “that unit of administration with defined territory and powers as well as administrative authority with relative autonomy”.

According to 1976 Local Government Reforms, local government could be defined as: Government at local level exercise through representative council established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implement projects so as to compliment the activities

of the state and federal government in their areas and to ensure, through devolution of functions to their councils and through the active participation of the people and traditional institutions, but that local initiative and response to local needs and condition are maximized”, (FRN, 1976). The essence of local government administration therefore, is to provide for the needs of the people at the grassroots’ or rural areas. According to Ekong (in Akhakpe, Fatile & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2012), rural areas refer to small, inward-looking, and idyllic communities held together by kinship relations and supporting basic agricultural occupations. The differences between rural from urban areas can be seen in terms of: size, population density; homogeneity; presence of few social classes; low standard of living, presence of few or no social amenities such as electricity; pipe-borne water; mainly agrarian in nature; rural-urban migration of young able-men and women in search of greener pastures; domestic labour; poverty; high death rate; high birth rate; illiteracy, high health risks, inadequate access to productive resources, and lack of credit/market access among others.

Boris, (2015)opined that all political systems in the world pursue the realization of efficient and effective delivery of services at the rural areas this is as a result of the fact that the delivery of services by local government administration in any part of the globe certainly affects the daily activities of the people at the local level, therefore, whichever is the type of government, local government has always been fundamentally viewed as path to, and originator of national integration, development and administration.

The concept of rural development in Nigeria lacks a unified definition as different scholars tend to view it from varying perspective. Some scholars look at rural development from the aspect of educational training like Haddad (2014), and Hinzen (2020). Obinne (2016) perceived rural development to involve creating and widening opportunities for individuals to realize full potential

through education and share in decision and action which affect their lives. Others like Olayide, Ogunfowora, Essang and Idachaba (2018) view rural development as means for the provision of basic amenities, infrastructure, improved agriculture productivity and extension services and employment generation for rural dwellers.

2.1.2 Rural Development

Tadele, (2020) asserted that rural development in the recent time has appeared in the global politics and there is no single definition that is universally acceptable for rural development or rural areas because it is broadly recognised in several literatures that it is a disputed idea be it in theory, policy, or practice, the concept seems to vary from one country to another because different nations use different criteria to identify the rural areas from the urban centres. Nevertheless, in several nations of the globe the places that are usually called “rural” share many common characteristics that differentiate them from the urban centres and they include population size, labour market, population density and occupations. Rural transformation or development can be seen as an effort which are social and economic in nature and are aimed at encouraging the concepts of expansion and growth in the areas that are outside the urban towns, which includes enhancing the qualities of life of the rural dwellers Atkinson, (2020).

Machado, (2010) on his part stated that the persistence of underdevelopment and poverty at the rural areas has resulted in a situation where the rural dwellers continue to live a life that is full of sympathy as a result of the bad policies, programmes or projects that are supposed to be for the rural poor. One shared feature of the rural areas in Africa and Nigeria in particular is that it comprises of individuals characterised by very low level of education and poverty (Olorunfemi, 2020).

Mabogunje cited in Hamza, M & Muhammad, (2019) asserted that the concern of rural development is the improvement of the standard of living of the low income individuals who reside in the rural areas on a self-sustaining basis by changing the socio-spatial structures of the productive activities of the rural dwellers. This means that a comprehensive based restructuring and deployment of the rural people to manage efficiently with day to day responsibilities of their lives as well as with the changes resulting from this.

Olorunfemi, (2020) averred again that it is important to note that the rural areas have become the centre for the production of food and also the place where the raw materials required by industries are produced. The Nigerian government over the years have made some effort towards developing the rural areas, however, there is still a big gap between the formulation of policies and execution as well as the reality of the development level of the rural people (Egbe, 2014). Danaan, (2018) asserted that one of the greatest threat to rural development and the people in general in Nigeria is the issue of poverty. Maku, (2019) supported this view when he asserted that poverty in Nigeria is likely going to be worsening because the gap between the poor and the rich keep getting wider.

2.1.3 Functions of local government

The functions of local government as identified in the guidelines for local government reforms (1976) are;

- i. to make appropriate service and development activities responsive to local wishes and initiative by developing or delegating them to local representative bodies.
- ii. To facilitate the exercise of democratic self-government close to the local level of our society and to encourage initiatives and leadership potential.

- iii. To mobilize human and material resources through the involvement of member of the public in their local development.
- iv. To provide a two-way channel of communication between local communities and government (both state and federal).

Sady (1962) summarized the purpose of local government as follows:

- 1. making programmers to faster social and economic betterment at local communities.
- 2. Training people in the art self-government.
- 3. Strengthens national unity
- 4. Increase the peoples understanding and support of social and economic development and as a result of gaining benefits of their own.

2.1.4 Sources of local government finances

Broadly the sources review for local government finance are two, the internal and external sources.

Internal sources: these are also often referred as the internally generated revenue (I.G.R.), these includes;

- 1. Tax and Rate: this consists of direct and indirect taxes such as income tax in all taxable adults, tax paid by property owners on their properties which is determined by the local government. Tenement rate is paid by those who rent such apartment.
- 2. Fees and Fines: licenses fees such as;
 - i. Radio and Television licenses
 - ii. Vehicle licenses
 - iii. Liquor licenses
 - iv. Hand cart and bicycle license e.t.c.

Fines are payment made for contravening local government's bye-laws.

3. Incomes from Capital Investments such as proceeds from within the local government, incomes from markets, parks and public conveniences, regulatory and advert placements, marriages, births and deaths certificates, interests and dividends, street naming and roads, commercial undertakings and grants e.t.c.

External Sources

These include:

- (i) Statutory allocations from the federation account
- (ii) Statutory allocations from the State governments (10% of their internally generated revenue).
- (iii) Foreign Aids and Grants.
- (iv) Loans from financial Institutions.
- (v) Donations

The statutory allocations from the federation account to the local governments are 20% of the total amount distributed monthly and this has remained so since 1st June 1992. Similarly, in addition to the above, the local governments of a State are to receive 10% of the internally generated revenues of the State Government. Further to this, Local governments are entitled to 30% of the total amount accrued to the value added Tax (VAT) pool account with the States and Federal government having 50% and 20% respectively. Other revenues, which are shared to the local governments, include: Privatization proceeds, GSM proceeds, Fertilizer subsidy and Stabilization fund and General ecology. The local governments also do have foreign aids and Grants, which help a great deal in Developmental projects, social services, and security among others. The councils can also seek for the obtain loans for specific projects which they must pay

back before the expiry of their tenure. Donations do also get to the councils as the Donors may deem fit or are persuaded to do.

These are the various external sources of local government revenues for now in Nigeria. However, there are lines of thinking that current allocations from the federation account are too small compared to the enormous responsibilities and constitutional functions, which the councils are saddled with. We share this line of thought and it is our considered opinion that given that development comes from below, the councils no deserve more money from the federation account more so that the cost of running the councils and that of providing social services alongside other responsibilities has skyrocketed. Sadly too most of the councils are doing little or nothing to improve upon other means of generating revenue.

2.1.5 Challenges of local governments in nigeria

Corruption

It has been identified as one of the problems confronting effective local government administration in Nigeria, also non-adherence to provisions of the financial memorandum (FM), conspicuous consumption of the part of the local officials, lifestyles that are not commensurate with official sources of income, imposition of leaders on the local government through corrupted political process and low wages of local government officials (Ali, 2008). Some of the areas where corruption thrives in local government in Nigeria include the following:

- a) Inflation of prices of bought items;
- b) Over estimation of cost of projects;
- c) The ghost worker syndrome;
- d) Poor financial base and limited revenue
- e) Award of contracts and subsequent abandonment;

- f) Payment of huge sums of money to political godfathers;
- g) The age-long belief by the officials that people are ignorant, illiterate and unenlightened;
- h) Lack of accountability

Lack of autonomy

Autonomy simply refers to freedom, independent, free from external and remote control but in Nigeria the reverse is the case, Local Government are totally independent, they are managed by the federal and state governments who dominate over the local government administration through the state government offices of local government affairs, the ministry of local government, and the local government service commission. All these government agencies are denying the autonomy of self-dependent administration of Local Government in Nigeria.

Leadership problem

In most states in Nigeria, the ruling party appoints and blesses the candidate who must run for election at the local government level. Without their blessings, such candidates cannot win an election. The various state governments also appoint caretaker chairmen for the Local Government Council, who are mostly stooges and appendages of the state governor. Even when elections are held, the ruling party in the state and the state government, in particular, rigs and manipulates the election process to favour their preferred candidates. It is a clear case of who pays the piper dictates the tune. This again creates inefficiency of administrative performance and diversion of local government functions, as well as oriented programs for the local people.

Unskilled workers

Local government in Nigeria are faced with the problem of inadequate skilled workers such as engineers, accountants, medical doctors, town planners, statisticians, etc. Reasons for this unfortunate development are that, there is a very low image of local government in the minds of

these professionals. Again, there is lack of job satisfaction that can keep them in the local government. Most skilled and qualified personnel's and professionals prepare to gamble their luck either in private organisations or establish their own firms rather than risk staying at the local government where there are no incentives, and they may be wasted away.

Inadequate and poor budgetary allocation

Local governments in Nigeria are known to suffer from inadequate and poor budgetary allocation. This is done by deliberate cut-offs of budgetary allocation to the local government by some States Governors either for political reasons or absolute corruption. The siphoning of funds through frivolous activities and fictitious contracts to their party members and friends greatly affects the financial needs of local governments. This is one of the major reasons why local government in Nigeria usually performs below expectation, thereby making the third tiers of government meaningless and lacking the diffidence of democracy.

Administrative inefficiency

Local governments in Nigeria suffer from administrative inefficiency and ineffectiveness resulting from low educational qualifications of staff, poor motivation, autocratic leadership, poor work environment, etc. The management and control of finances is a central factor in the management of local governments. The quality and promptness/effectiveness of local government services depend on the quality and quantity of workers in the system.

Politically, politicians divert from their campaign promises through scheming of ways to remain in office and swell their private financial bank accounts with public funds from the local government. They abandon principles of good governance and democratic ideals that are fundamental in promoting administrative efficiency in order to satisfy their selfish desires.

Lack of provision of basic social amenities

The decline in delivery of social services for the people at the grassroots is perhaps, felt more by common people. This revealed that the local government administration has failed in meeting the basic needs of the people – good roads, metro-transport, potable water, regular electricity supply, sanitations and rehabilitation of local road under their local jurisdiction, qualitative healthcare delivery and education. Close on the heels of this is poor or non-maintenance of existing social services. Local Governments appear to have failed in this respect thereby leading to strong voice for the cancelation or eradication of the third tiers of government which is Local Government Administration in Nigeria.

2.2 Theorotical Framework

Social contract theory

The theory is associated with scholars like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. The notion of the Social contract theory emphasise that man lived in the state of nature in the beginning where they do not have any form of government and they were not regulated by any form of law. There were oppression and all kinds of hardship on the society where life was considered to be solitary, nasty, brutish and short. Hence the people sought for the protection their lives as well as properties (Elahi, 2014). Because of this, a society was formed where people agreed to respect one another and to live a peaceful and harmonious life. The people also coming together in unity decided to pledge and obey a constituted authority (Government) and to also surrender part or the whole of their rights and freedom to the authority (Elahi, 2014). Nweke & Nkwede, (2019) on their part stressed that the social contract

theory was basically to ensure the collective security and the social welfare of the general people in the society.

This theory was adopted as a theoretical frame work of this study because of the relevance of the theory to the research work. The theory is relevant to this research work because it emphasised the fact that the people in the society surrendered their rights and freedom to the government and it is the responsibility of the government in turn to ensure the protection of their lives and properties and to also ensure the development of the society in order to enhance the standard of living of the people.

2.3 Emperical Review

There has been growing recognition of the importance of rural development as an instrument in the overall development of the contemporary developing world. This is because of the glaring gap between the rural and urban areas in terms of infrastructural, resources distribution, human resources development and employment, which has made rural development imperative (Ogbazi, 2012 in Zakariya'u, 2014). This imbalance has subjected the rural areas to more disadvantaged economic position. It has induced rural – urban migration, thereby, increasing unemployment situation in the urban areas, while, simultaneously depriving the rural areas of their agricultural workforce. There are several studies, which have been done in relation to the above. Nweke & Nkwede, (2019) in their research stated that the primary responsibility of any government is the security and welfare of the citizens and that is why modern states or nations of the world have adopted this as a cardinal point of their social contract to the citizens.

Kakumba(2010), investigated Local Government citizen Participation and Rural Development: Reflection on Uganda's Decentralized system. His research established that the

cardinal goals of decentralization seem to be elusive. He further established that the central government's conceived strategies should out list participation in order to attain strong ownership and empowerment.

Pollnnan et al (2017) studied Input for and output of local governance in Rural Development. The study established that inadequate funding conditions for Private actors set limitations for their involvement for their projects implementation. Another study was done in Thailand by khongsatjaviwat (2015) on Local government.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology that was used to conduct the study. The chapter describes the research design, population of the study, sample and sampling procedures, research instruments, validity and reliability of the instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

Survey Research is adopted for this study. The data collected from surveys is then statistically analyzed to draw meaningful research conclusions. In the 21st century, every organization's eager to understand what their customers think about their products or services and make better business decisions. Researchers can conduct research in multiple ways, but surveys are proven to be one of the most effective and trustworthy research methods.

3.3 Population of the Study

In this study, the target populations considered are the full staffs of Ilorin west LGA Secretariat, both male and females within the age range of 20years above. The population study is estimated to 100 Staff Strength at Ilorin west LGA Secretariat.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sampling is the act, process, or techniques of selecting suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of a whole population. It is also a subset which represents the entire population. It is generally meant to promote an understanding of the larger population, due to the inability to reach the entire population of the

institution. This descriptive approach involve the normal gathering analysis and interpretations of a set of data so as to explain the underlying factors that surround the problems that triggered of the research. The design also provides opportunity for equal chance of participation in the study for the respondents. In order to select the respondent use for this study, the sample size was calculated using Guilford and Flruchter (1973) formula for estimating sample size:

$$\frac{N}{1 + Q^2 N}$$

Where N= Population size = 100

Q = alfa = 0.05

$$\frac{N}{1 + Q^2 N} = \frac{100}{1 + (0.05)^2 (100)} = 80$$

In this study sampling technique used was simple random techniques whereby everybody has equal chance in participating and in other to foster the accuracy of the research work. The sample size used for this study will be eighty (80).

3.5 Distribution and Collection of Data

The questionnaire will be drafted by the researcher and approved by the researcher's supervisor. Copies of questionnaire will be distributed by the researcher herself to the respondents. A total of eighty (80) copies of the questionnaire will be prepared and administered at the case studies.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

The primary data for this study are directly collected by the researcher who distributed the questionnaire to respondents. The data are primary. Although, certain information from textbooks, journals and internet were collated from the respondents.

3.7 Instrumentation of Data Collection

In this study, a structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. The questionnaire is a self-administered with 80 participants. The questionnaire was divided into three (3) sections, which are; Section A and Section B. Section A consisted of socio-demographic which are the characteristics of the respondents which includes age, sex, marital status, level of education, job status or rank and length of service. Section B contains questions relating to local government and challenges of rural development, using Likert scale rating which are: Strongly Agree – (SA), Agree – (A), Disagree – (D) and Strongly Disagree – (SD).

3.8 Methods of Data Analysis

The data collected through the questionnaire was collated and analyzed for the purpose of the study. Data was presented using the frequency distribution table, pie and bar charts, histogram and prose presentation.

3.9 Brief History of the Study Area

Ilorin west is part of the Head quarter of Ilorin native authority under Ilorin province in the old Northern region of Nigeria with creation of states in 1967, Ilorin West local Government came to being when twelve (12) local government areas were created as at 1976, two other local government however was removed from Ilorin west local government in 1991 during Gen. Ibrahim Babangida regime when he created new states.

Ilorin west local government is saddled with the responsibility of providing needs of local services, politically, there has been reforms in the long age of system district administration, this involves the division of each local governments into a suitable members described as wards to enables general participation of the local people in the world of political affairs.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The study sought to find out the effects challenges of rural development in Ilorin West Local Government of Kwara State.. The findings are presented in charts and tables, starting with the demographic characteristics of the respondents and then the Section on Local Government and challenges of rural development. Forty hard copies of the questionnaires were sent to the target respondents. Eighty of the filled questionnaires were received back indicating 100% response rate.

4.2 DATA PRESENTATIONS

Demographics of the Respondents

4.2.1 Gender of the Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	34	42.5	42.5	42.5
Valid Female	46	57.5	57.5	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

The study sought to find out the gender of the respondents with the presumption that variation in gender could influence opinions. Table 4.1 indicates that 42.5% were males and 57.5% female.

Age Group

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
21-30 years	10	12.5	12.5	12.5
31-40 years	15	18.7	18.7	31.2
Valid 41-50 years	35	43.8	43.8	75
51 years and above	20	25	25	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: **Researcher's Field Survey, 2025**

The study further sought to find out the age groups of the respondents represented. The table above indicate that the majority of the respondents at 43.8% were aged between 41 years to 50 years. Those aged 31-40 years were 18.7%; 21-30 years 12.5% and those aged above 50 years were 25%.

Departmental Distribution

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualifications

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
ADMIN	15	18.7	18.7	18.7
FINANCE	10	12.5	12.5	31.2
Valid WORKS	10	12.5	12.5	43.7
HEALTH	15	18.7	18.7	62.4
AGRIC	15	18.7	18.7	81.1
EDUCATION	15	18.7	18.7	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: **Researcher's Field Survey, 2025**

The research shows that all the six(6) departments are well represented in the interview so as to reach a desired results and not been biased.

Religion

Table 5:

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Islam	51	63.3	63.3	63.3
Christianity	25	31.3	31.3	94.6
Others	4	5.4	5.4	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

The above table shows that the larger percentage of the respondents at Ilorin West Local Government were of the faith of Islam with 55%, while the Christian respondents having 33.33% and 11.11% represents other faiths.

4.3.2 Analysis on challenges of Rural Development in Nigeria

Table 6: Lack of qualified politicians is a problem facing rural development in your local council

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	20	25.0	25.0	25.0
Agree	35	43.2	43.2	68.2
Strongly Disagree	21	22.7	22.7	90.9
Disagree	4	4.5	4.5	95.5
Undecided	4	4.5	4.5	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 6 shows that 20 respondents representing 25.0% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population agreed with the statement, 21 respondents representing 22.7% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 4 respondents representing 4.5% of the population disagreed with the statement, while 4 (4.5%) of the respondents are undecided.

Table 7: Excessive politicking at the local level has a negative impact on rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	43.7	43.7	43.7
Agree	32	40.0	40.0	80.7
Valid Strongly Disagree	8	10.0	10.0	90.7
Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 7 shows that 35 respondents representing 43.7 % of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 32 respondents representing 40% of the population agreed with the statement, 8 respondents representing 10% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, while 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population disagreed with the statement.

Table 8: Lack of Community Participation in the development Process hinders rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	22	27.3	27.3	27.3
Agree	35	43.2	43.2	70.5
Valid Strongly Disagree	18	22.7	22.7	93.2
Disagree	3	4.5	4.5	97.7
Undecided	2	2.3	2.3	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 8 shows that 22 respondents representing 27.3% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population agreed with the statement, 18 respondents representing 22.7% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 3 respondents representing 4.5% of the population disagreed with the statement, while 2 (2.3%) of the respondents are undecided.

Table 9: Poor Revenue Base of Local Governments is a challenge in rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	24	29.5	29.5	29.5
Agree	27	34.1	34.1	63.6
Strongly Disagree	15	18.2	18.2	81.8
Disagree	1	2.3	2.3	84.1
Undecided	13	15.9	15.9	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 9 shows that 24 respondents representing 29.5% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 27 respondents representing 34.1% of the population agreed with the statement, 15 respondents representing 18.2% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 1 respondents representing 2.3% of the population disagreed with the statement, while 13 (15.9%) of the respondents are undecided.

Table 10: Lack of Local Government autonomy hinders rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	13	15.9	15.9	15.9
Agree	38	47.7	47.7	63.6
Strongly Disagree	16	20.5	20.5	84.1
Disagree	3	4.5	4.5	88.6
Undecided	9	11.4	11.4	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 10 shows that 13 respondents representing 15.9% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 38 respondents representing 47.7% of the population agreed with the statement, 16 respondents representing 20.5% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 3 respondents representing 4.5% of the population disagreed with the statement, while 9 (11.4%) of the respondents are undecided.

Table 11: State government interference is a challenge in rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	24	29.5	29.5	29.5
Agree	27	34.1	34.1	63.6
Valid Strongly Disagree	15	18.2	18.2	81.8
Undecided	1	2.3	2.3	84.1
Total	13	15.9	15.9	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 11 shows that 24 respondents representing 29.5% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 27 respondents representing 34.1% of the population agreed with the statement, 15 respondents representing 18.2% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 1 respondents representing 2.3% of the population disagreed with the statement, while 13 (15.9%) of the respondents are undecided.

Table 12: Lack of skillful individuals and manpower hinders rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	40	50	50	50.0
Agree	25	31.2	31.2	81.2
Valid Strongly Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	87.5
Disagree	10	12.5	12.5	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 12 shows that 40 respondents representing 50% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 25 respondents representing 25% of the population agreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, while 10 respondents representing 12.5% of the population disagreed with the statement.

Table 13: Right attitude of Elected officers and political will improve rural development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	43.2	43.2	43.2
Agree	35	43.2	43.2	86.4
Valid Strongly Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	93.3
Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 13 shows that 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population agreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population disagreed with the statement.

Table 14: Should Local Government autonomy be introduced

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	40	50	50	50.0
Agree	25	31.2	31.2	81.2
Valid Strongly Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	87.5
Disagree	10	12.5	12.5	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 14 shows that 40 respondents representing 50% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 25 respondents representing 25% of the population agreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, while 10 respondents representing 12.5% of the population disagreed with the statement.

Table 15: Do you think Local Government will perform better if well funded

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	35	43.2	43.2	43.2
Agree	35	43.2	43.2	86.4
Valid Strongly Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	93.3
Disagree	5	6.3	6.3	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 15 shows that 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 35 respondents representing 43.2% of the population agreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population strongly disagreed with the statement, 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population disagreed with the statement.

Table 16: How do you rate the performance of the government on rural Development

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Poor	40	50.0	50.0	50.8
Fair	25	31.2	31.2	81.2
Valid Satisfactory	10	12.5	12.5	93.7
Good	5	6.3	6.3	100.0
Total	44	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

Table 16 shows that 40 respondents representing 50% of the population rated the performance of the local government poor, 25 respondents representing 31.2% of the population rated it fair with the statement, 10 respondents representing 12.5% of the population rated it satisfactory, while only 5 respondents representing 6.3% of the population rated the performance of the local government good.

4.4 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Local Government and challenges of rural development has been a major problem in Nigeria since the creation of local government but from this chapter we have been able to analyze data received from the field which helps in better understanding of the challenges and possible way out.

The respondents states level of performance and shortcomings of the government in tackling issues of rural development and to which the proffer local government autonomy and better funding of local government as the solution the challenges in rural development.

The paper attempted to identify the role or place of local government in rural development from the perspective of being the closest tier of government to the people. It is obvious from the arrangement and federal practice in Nigeria that local governments are emasculated and have not been effectively positioned to place its constitutional roles, let alone play the roles it should in rural development. Self-help as an issue in rural development and the various approaches to rural development were discussed. Local Government is the focus of government efforts at promoting development. To effectively develop, the people's efforts must be adequately mobilized.

A Purposeful combination of local (peoples) efforts and energies with that of government with the objective of improving socioeconomic conditions and encouraging political participation are key factors in rural development. Rural Development as a strategy is designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural people. The core issues in rural development include self-help; attention to needs (felt and latent); integrated community for development; mobilization of human and material resources which could facilitate the provision of social amenities and infrastructures. The organizational environment for enhancing rural development remains the local government.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 SUMMARY

Every local government is faced with development aspect within its geographical areas, which also see to the formulation of policies and the implantation of such political and personnel policies, the issues of rural development among others can be barred road, portable water, electricity, better medical facilities, greater employment opportunities, better education, greater recreation entertainment facilities, greater access to self determination opportunities. This all seems to be served to urban dwellers and yet the rural dwellers are also human, however, this inequality must be redressed.

Through the empirical data collection, the study has shown that persistent effort of the local government on the development of these areas have improved greatly. The standard of living of its rural dwellers can be seen from the study much could and can be done however if this and many other local government are given better and much assistance from the central government, it would go a long way in performing efficiently and effectively.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

Some programmes of rural development must articulate utilization for energies of the population and resources of their environment such that their output, their productivity and qualities of their life can be greatly enhanced conscious and deliberate effort must be made through education and general enlightenment to reduce or eliminate unwanted waste and protect the rural population from destabilizing changes.

Local government as the matter of emphasis must be seen and treated as the wheel and hub at progressive change and development in rural areas. An important aspect such recognition is also needed to organize the rural place so that it can serve effectively as monitoring factor to enhance accountability and increase check and at ensuring optimal utilization of allocated society becomes the greater are the dangers of allocation, the facing of individual citizen so much that their own environment all well-being are doing decided by remote and impersonal force which type do not and cannot influence. It is only through local government that the confidence between government and citizens can be restored and maintained whichever way we look at it, grass root integrated rural development is a fundamental compelling and immediate necessity for us. It is needed much more than a must, it is our immediate future. It is the true foundation on which they can use to

build our nation mixture it to a rapid growth. Individually and collectively we can by ourselves and our communities the very best place each can possibly be.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

Noted among the numerous data collected is whether there may be problem that confront rural development, to remedy these problems alternative strategies relating to pressing situation are placed and examined. However, these already in existence should be properly taken care of by the government and local government.

In areas where there is insufficient finance, the local committee or communities and wealthy individuals should make constitution where necessary, the government cannot really satisfy the same time. Education health and nutrition of the rural dwellers is rested on the local government and communities. This can be seen by the recent nine (9) years adoption and compulsory education by the federal government.

The best education in the rural areas or mantic was planned now practiced and implemented. Planning and housing for rural dwellers have to be reviewed and the current status of housing have stood the test of time and are generally good materials used in building thatched roofing which is usually not durable. All that is needed is better utilization of these materials to improve quality of housing durability. A research into local building and modes of traditional architecture is a scene to improving quality of housing in rural areas.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondents,

I am a student of the department of Public Administration, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. I am conducting a research on the “Local Government and challenges of rural development, a case study of Ilorin West local Government”.

Your response to the question below will be highly appreciated in this research work. You are assured that all the information supplied is merely for academic purpose and will be treated strictly as such.

INSTRUCTION: Fill or tick where appropriate in the space provided.

1. What is your Gender:- Male ☐ Female ☐
2. What is your age? Below 25 years ☐ 25-34 years ☐ 35-44 years ☐ 45-54 years ☐ 55 years and above ☐
3. which department do you work? Admin ☐ Finance and Account ☐ Works ☐ Health ☐ Agric ☐ Education ☐
4. Religion? Islam ☐ Christianity ☐ Others ☐
5. What is your highest level of educational achievement? O’ level ☐ Diploma level ☐ Bachelor’s Degree ☐ Master’s Degree ☐ Post graduate ☐

Section B

5. Lack of qualified politicians is a problem facing rural development in your local council?
A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
6. Excessive politicking at the local level has a negative impact on rural development? A.
Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
7. Lack of Community Participation in the development Process hinders rural development?
A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
8. Poor Revenue Base of Local Governments is a challenge in rural development? A.
Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
9. Lack of Local Government autonomy hinders rural development? A. Strongly Agree
B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree

10. State government interference is a challenge in rural development? A. Strongly Agree
B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
11. Lack of skillful individuals and manpower hinders rural development? A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
12. Right attitude of Elected officers and political will improve rural development? A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
13. Should Local Government autonomy be introduced? A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
14. Do you think Local Government will perform better if well funded? A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Disagree D. Strongly Disagree
15. How do you rate the performance of the government on rural Development? Good ☐
Satisfactory ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐