

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS AN AGENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A CASE STUDY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KWARA STATE

BY

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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DEDICATION

I dedicated this project to God Almighty who sees me throughout my academic in kwara state polytechnic and to my late parents Mr. and Mrs. Oluwatoye, may their souls continue to rest in perfect peace.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was written and approved by as meeting the requirement of public administration department for the award in Public Administration, Institutes of Finance and Management Studies, Kwara State polytechnic, Ilorin.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Local government is the closest tier of government to the people. Local government is not only an institution for economic development but also the bedrock on which the growth and development rural areas by federal and state government superstructures are laid.

Throughout West Africa, the history of local government introduced by the British Colonial administration to the former West African territories was imported from Britain experience in its Colony in India and had little or no relationship with the history and characteristics of our people. Though Community development is not new in Nigeria, it is the emphasis on it now which makes it almost a revolution.

However, community development as a process in which the inhabitants of a local government community organize themselves to provide social amenities on their own with or without government assistance.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The major problem that hinders the progress of the local government community development includes: Inadequate funding and withholding of local government funds by the control of federal government and joint account with the state government. Lack of

local government autonomy over local affairs, selection rather than election of local government executives by state government. Corruption nepotism and favoritism.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In view of the importance of local government as agent of community development, this work will highlight the Impact of the local government in community development. It will also examine the impact of local government area council in its social economic and political activities. This work will also examine the performance of local government on community development within its area of jurisdiction. lastly to know the historical background of the case study

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This work would be useful and beneficial not only Ilorin South local government, but to other agencies involved in grassroots development efforts. It will also help to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on Ilorin South local government area of Kwara State and serve as a reference for future research work.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study presents the research on local government as agent of community development. It covers the role of Ilorin South local government as a catalyst for community development and the roles of various units of the local government in this regards. It covers in retrospect the period from the time of local government reform 1976 as a reference point till date. Taking into cognizance that the local government (Ilorin

east) under spotlight was created in December 1991. This work would not cover certain areas such as secret files or documents of Ilorin South local government and the detail of pre 1976 reform period of local government. The limitation of this work is attributable to various obstacles encountered in the course of collection of data and information from local government personnel who usually refer to some documents as "classified documents" and secret files. Time constraint was another factor as well as inadequate finance.

1.6 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

For analytical simplicity, the research work will be subdivided into five chapters.

Chapter one deals with the introduction, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, organization of the Study as well as the definition of terms.

Chapter two deals with literature review, theoretical frame work, current trends in thinking summary of the chapter

Chapter three consists of the methodology, sample and population of the study, sources of data, method of data analysis as well as research problems.

Chapter four deals with data presentation, the introduction, brief history of the case study, sources of data, method of data analysis as well as research problem presentation of data, testing of hypothesis and summary of the chapter.

Chapter five deals with summary, recommendations and conclusion.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Local government is a concept that carries a myriad of definition and meaning. There is no system of local government that is common to all countries of the world, hence no uniform structure, power and function for local government. Therefore it is difficult to find a common definition that fit ails.

Bello- Imam [1996] defines local government as that unit of administration with constitutionally defined territory and powers as well as a administrative authority with relative autonomy. Such administrative authority could be, be not always elected.

The federal republic of Nigeria [FRN] 1976 conceives local government as government at local level exercised through council established by law to exercise special's powers within defined areas.

The report of the political Bureau [1987]. Local government is widely acknowledge as a viable instrument for rural transformation and for delivery of social service to the people.

Rural Communities generally refers to the country side and is demographically defined as that setting that has less than ten thousand people inhabiting a particular area or location. The economic activities of a greater percentage is farming.

Development, however, is a process of social transformation, which may manifest in visible change in the physical environment and or in the upward movement of such hid

ices gross nation product, per capital income, declining maternal mortality and increase employment.

Rural community development will therefore be conceive as a process of rapid social transformation and increase level of per capital income in the rural community economic sector that would translate to a meaningful rise in the standard of living of the rural population.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Different scholars in their postulation have defined local government in one way or another.

These definitions, whether in a unitary system or federal system of government as been operated in Nigeria. Local government remains an essential instrument of national or state government instrument involved in the performance of certain basic activities and function which can best be administered locally on the intimate knowledge of the needs, conduction and peculiarities of the community concerned, for their over all development.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL CLEARIFICATION

Local government is grassroots government recognized by law. From the perspective of maddick [1963) local government is a sub unit of government controlled by local council which is authorized by the central government to pass ordinances having a local application, vertexes or exact labour and within limit specified by the central government.

United nation [UN] defines local government as a political sub- division of nation or in a federal system or a state which is constituted by law and has sustention control of local attain including the power to pose taxes or exact labour for prescribed purposes.

The governing body of such an entity is elected or other The [1976] Nigerian local government reform document defines local government as, government at local level exercised bym representatives' council, established by law to exercise specific power within defined areas.

It highlights the following factors:

1. That local government is subordinate system of Government.
2. It has legal and constitutional power to perform certain legislative, administrative and quasi judicial functions
3. It council be elected or selected.
4. Has power to make policies, prepare it budget and can have it own staff.
5. It exercise authority over a given territory or population.
6. It is a legal person i.e. can sue and can be sued.

Democracy is a form of government in which all the people have equal in the decision that affects their lives. It within this premise that local government as a grass root government can help bridge the gap generally existed between the central state government and the people. Under kcal government administration, communities, town and village are organized to maintain law and order, provide basic second services and

public amenities and encourage the cooperation and participation of the inhabitant in joint Endeavour toward the improvement / development of their conduction of living.

According to A H Marshall local government administration has three essential characteristics.

A. It operates in a restricted geographical area within a nation or state.

B. Local election or selection is done for council member

C. It enjoys a measure of autonomy including power of taxations.

This definition identified function that are local in character and which therefore should concern only those living in the locality Sen L Gwom defines local government administration the breaking down of a state into smaller unit for the Purpose of administration, in which the inhabitants of different unit or locality concern play a direct full part, through their elected, nominated or appointed representative, who exercise power or undertake functions under the general authority of a national or state government.

FUNCTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The local government is strategically located to perform political and socio economic functions to the local population, because of its proximity to the people. The following functions are identified as the key area of local government intervention to enhance rural community development.

1. Fostering civic consciousness / political awareness, since rural population is high, most of whom are not literate and are ignorant of their rights and privileges provided in the constitution.

Local government brings governance closer to the people, it raises their consciousness through democratic process and affords them the opportunity to select those to govern them.

2. Entrenchment of social justice is enhanced through the closeness of local government to the people, in quick dispensation of social justice at grassroots level. The further the government the more distance are the people likely to be in terms of justice.

3. Acceleration of social and economic development. The neglect of many sections of the country, mainly because they have no representatives in the helms of affairs. Therefore it is believed that the creation of more local government will increase rapid development.

4. Redressing shortage of amenities amongst communities, local government mandates includes provision and distribution of amenities to rural communities, such as hospitals/clinics, schools, pipe-borne water, electricity etc while a single community can have all these, because it is the headquarters, another may not have a single one of them. Creation of more local government will help reduce the imbalance.

5. Community development is the essence of local government planning in Nigeria. Rural development is aimed at fostering rapid socio-economic transformation. The establishments of like community halls, public toilets, market stalls, recreation facilities, financial/credit institutions, cooperative associations, Health Centers and schools.

Communities where these are available are said to be a developed area. The aim successive local government is therefore the equitable distribution of resource to meet the people need.

6. Local government function includes the following additional. -

i. Collection of rates and issuance of radio and television license.

ii. Licensing of bicycles, tractor and other mechanic ally propelled trucks, canoes

iii. Naming road and streets and numbering of house.

iv. Registration of birth and death and marriages

v. Establishment and maintenance of commentaries burial grounds and home for the destitute or information people.

vi. Formulation of economic planning and development schemes for their local government area. Furthermore, local government makes laws and policies on the concurrent legislative list, which contain subjects under state and local government schedule. These comprise of functions which state and local government can gestate upon. These include the operation of commercial undertaking, health centers, maternity centre, and provision of Libraries/reading rooms, information! Public enlightens, scholarship/bursaries for indigent students and the finding and management of primary education etc.

2.4 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Without mincing words and from the general pattern of previous work collected on local government in this literature review, it can be conveniently confirmed that the grassroots government to accelerate development the rural areas has improved tremendously the social transformation efforts by government.

However, there are areas that need to be state and local government in areas of finance to carry out projects and frame needs to be improved. Autonomy in certain areas, involving devolution of power to effectively perform and meet the people's immediate needs. Local communities should be involved in the appointment (selection/ election) of their leaders. In view of the enormous task that the local government enunciated in all the reviewed work, to local government chose control affect independence and initiative by local government.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objective of the work, data was collected to provide the basic information needed for analysis research, evaluation and interpretation.

Data Were Collected From Two Major Sources

- i. Primary source: Questionnaire
- ii. Secondary source: Review of relative literature
- iii. To achieve the objective of this study, textbooks, Journals and other materials were contacted as a secondary source including local government educational board records.

Questionnaire was design to seek response from local government employment communities as the primary source.

3.1 SAMPLE AND POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The local government area in contention has over three hundred thousand (300,000) inhabitants. Majority of whom are farmers craft workers and petty traders. Sixty people where chosen as sample of the population. The characteristic of these sixty (60) people as sample will be used to justify the whole of the population.

3.2 SOURCES OF DATA AND DATA COLLECTION

Two major sources are used to collect data. The Primary source been through questionnaire consist of well structured and arranged questions. It is specifically signed to cover the role of local government and it impact agent of community development. It seeks to obtain sona 1 view of the respondents.

The secondary source are obtain from records and relevance documents from the local government and Kwara Polytechnic. Such as in textbook, journal, magazines and some other unpublished records and documents.

3.3 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The method use in analyzing the data are literary tabulation and percentages, regression, and correlation coefficient. The tabulation method has the advantage of providing method has the advantage of providing quick information at a glance, while the regression and correlation co-efficient is between variables (data) been analyzed.

a. (%) percentage = $\frac{\text{Total number of Respondent}}{\text{Sample Size}} \times 100$

Sample Size

b. The formula for calculating Pearson moment Correlation coefficient (q) is given as

$$r = \frac{\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{(\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2/n)(\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2/n)}$$

When X = Value of variable X

Y = Value of Variable Y

N = number of Sample

Two variables are measured. For the

* Hypothesis one: Towns/villages = (Independent Variable) and population ratio = Y (Dependent variable) and

* Hypothesis two: Towns/Villages = X (Independent Variable) and spread of development by local government councils (dependent variable) = Y

3.4 RESEARCH PROBLEM

The major challenges faced during the course of this research work can be summarized underneath.

1. Lack of available and adequate data, was a hindrance and a big problem for the research work to be more elaborate. The officials of local government classifies some documents as secret files and not willing to respond to certain questions. Related information on this subject matter are also few.
2. Problem of literacy is another factor as majority of the population are not literate and could not respond appropriately to questionnaire. Proper communication and response was also a problem encountered.

3. The constraint of time was another major factor to achieving a more elaborate research findings. Movements in and out side of the research environment, coupled with other engaging commitment, especially due to in accessible road and fewer means of mobility within the local communities pose a major obstacle.
4. Financial constraint significantly hindered reach during the collection of data. To movement, and necessary material, funds were prudently allocated.

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CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

To obtain the first hand view on the role of Ilorin South local government as an agent of community development amongst the inhabitants questionnaire was distributed to the people.

A total number of seventy-five (75) questionnaires were distributed to respondents, out of which a sizeable number of about sixty (60) was returned. This was the figure upon which the statistical analysis was based.

A total number of twelve (12) questions were asked to achieve the objective of the study.

4.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF ILORIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The call for more local government council in the country in order to bring about efficiency in administration of the country and to have government nearer to the people brought about the administration of Abacha on December 4th 1996. The local government has its headquarters at fufu. The language spoken by the people in the area include Yoruba, Fufude, Nupe and Hausa. Since its creation, the local government had been administered by different leaders among who include Mrs. A.F Ibrahim, Alh. Sallihu Abdulkareem, Arch (Mrs) Hallimat Tayo Alao, Alh. Muhammed Agboola present

incumbent chairman Mr Nuhu Lanre Daibu, under the great part of people democratic party.

The controlling traditional authority of the area is the royal highness, the emir of Ilorin. Alh. Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, who rules the local government through Balogun Fulani, the district of Akanbi and other chiefs. Within few years of existence, the local government has had positive impact on the lives of the people, according to a former at the Olodan Mallam Ismail Olokooba. We have every reason to thank God "they said, he also said that now that they have got their own local government council it will enable them to feel the benefits and essences government.

The organization structure of the local government consists of the following department

- I. One department of personnel management
- II. One department of finance, planning research and statistics.
 - a. Not more than four operation department reflecting the basic function and areas of concern to local government as follows.
 - 4a. Education
 - b. Agricultural and natural resources
 - c. Works housing, land, survey and

d. Medical or health

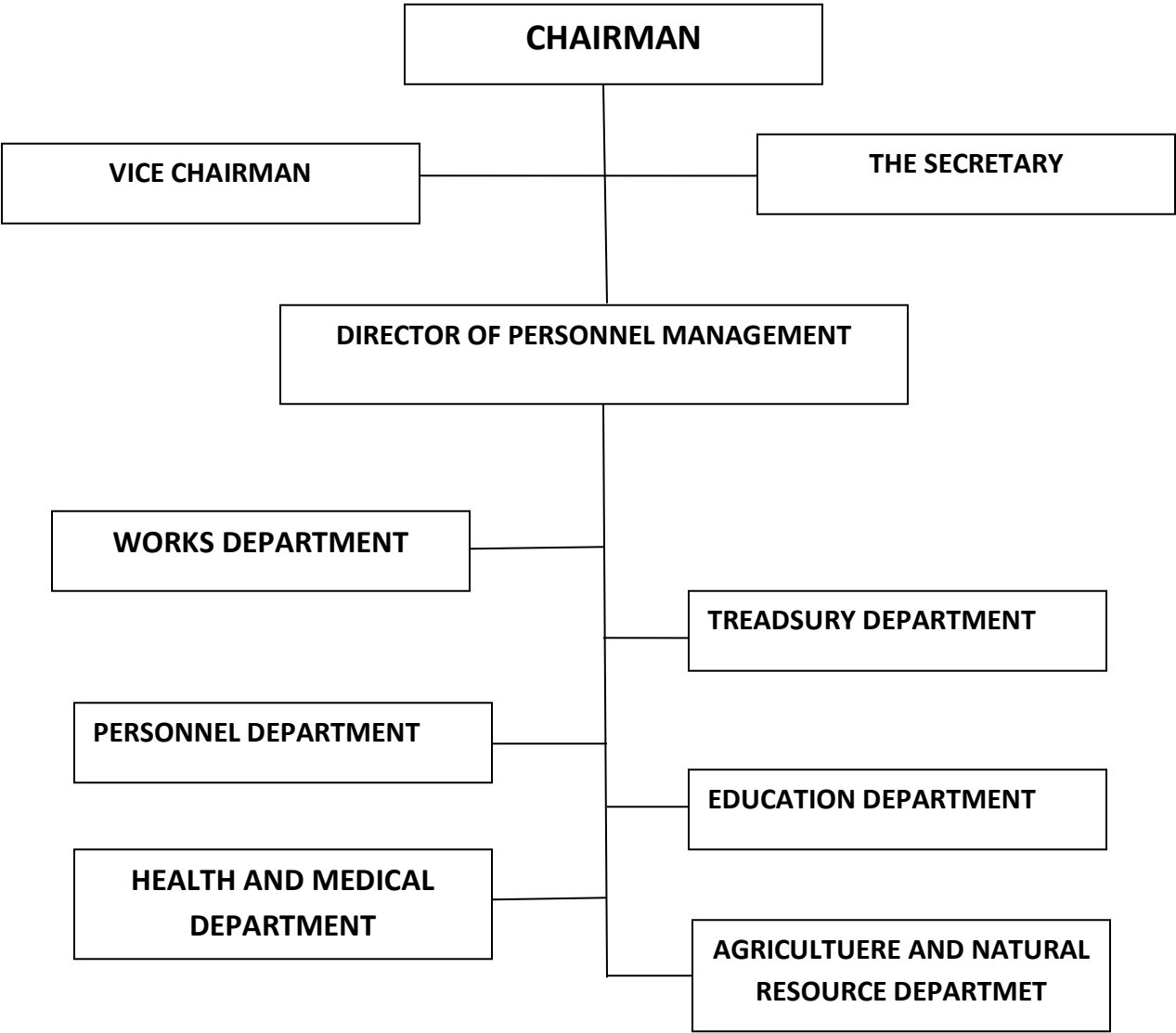
No local government is therefore allowed to have more than six department in all so any existence I the local government shall be accommodated through the sub-divisions below the level of department provided that in each case the spoon of control does not exceed six, each department is subdivided into division, each division shall be divided into branches and each branch shall be divided into branches and each branch shall be divided into sections, people call HOD shall head the departments, division, branches and section of the local government. The chairman in the local government is the chief executive and accounting officer in charge of vouchers and cheques secondary and treasurers to the local government must sign these cheques and vouchers. The vice chairman shall act for the chairman in his absences or performance those duties as may be assigned by the chairman. As he is also a supervisory councilor, he shall also perform the functions of supervisory councilor. He shall give directives to the executive head in policy issues. The chairman shall appoint the secondary to the local government, the chairman shall determine remuneration.

The local government treasurers performs the functions of chief financial adviser to eth local government. He shall be responsible for the administrative control of the finance department and local government each local government shall have a junior staff management committee, which will have responsibilities for the promotion, appointment discipline of officers in grade level 01 to 06

4.2 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ILORIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As enshrined in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria that the local government is the third tier of government. Ilorin east local government as a third tier of government is headed by a chairman as its chief executive officer. The chairman is assisted by key functionaries, such as Director of personnel and head of departments (HOD's).

**DIAGRAMMATIC SKETCH OF THE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF
ILORIN SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**



4.3 ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESIS

Table 1: Do you understand what community development is ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	37	63%
No	19	31%
No answer	4	6%
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

The table above shows that 63% understand what community development is , while 31% do not understand and 6% did not respond to the question are

Table 2: what category of people participate more in community development ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
children	3	5%
Young adult	15	25%
Adult	42	70%
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

The table shows that out of 60 respondent 42% respondent representing 70% agree that adult participate more , while 25% say young adult and 5% children participate more

Table 3: Does your local government assist in the development of your community ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	44	63%
No	6	10%
No answer	10	27%
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

These table indicates the 63% agree that local government assist in community development while 10% of respondent disagree and 27% do not answer

Table 4: has there been any awareness campaign by local government on the role community development

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	24	40%
No	20	33%
No answer	16	27%
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

The above table show that the only 40% of respondent said there are awareness campaign while 33% disagree and 27% did not respond

Table 5: do you rate local government high in terms of community development efforts

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	18	30%
No	26	43%
No answer	16	27%
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

The table above shows that 30% of 18 respondent rate the local government high in community development 23% disagree, while 27% did not respond.

Table 6: do you agree that the population ratio in your local government favour females than males ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	33	55%
No	17	28%
No answer	10	17%
Total	60	100%

Source researchers field survey, 2025

This table shows that 33 respondent representing 55% agree female population is more, 28% disagree , while 10% are undecided.

Table 7: individual assist in the community development efforts ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	45	75%
No	15	25%
No answer	-	-
Total	60	100%

Source : Researchers field survey, 2025

Table7 show that 75% of respondent agree that people assist in community development in Ilorin local government 25% disagree .

Table 8: does the community have development association with positive impact ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	48	80%
No	9	15%
No answer	3	5
Total	60	100%

Source: Researcher field survey, 2025

the above table shows development association play position role in community development in Ilorin local government 80% of respondent agree, 15% disagree, while 5% did not respond.

Table 9: is education playing a position role in community development in Ilorin local government?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
yes	60	100%
No	-	-
No answer	-	-
Total	60	100%

Source : researchers field survey, 2025

In the table above all respondent agree that education play a significant role and that it is the background of grow and economic development .

Table 10: what in your view is the major occupation of the people in Ilorin local government ?

Response	No of questionnaire	Percentage %
Agriculture	36	60%
Business	12	20%
Civil service	9	15%
All the above	-	-
Total	60	100%

Source : researchers field survey, 2025

The above table indicates that 60% of respondent agree that agriculture is the predominant occupation, business and civil services represent 12% and 9% respectively

4.4 TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

In testing the hypothesis, the decision rule says that , reject the null hypothesis

(H_i) if the calculated value is greater than or equal the table / critical value vice versa

Hypothesis 1

(H_o): there is no significant correlation between town/ villages and population ratio.

(H_i): there is significant correlation between towns / villages spread of development by the (Ilorin) local government council. Ilorin local government education institutions record between 1991 to 2011.

Years	Sch. colleges	Towns / villages	Ratio of spread of development by local government councils
1991	42	4	10.5
1996	35	4	8.75
2001	37	5	7.4
2006	47	11	4.27
2011	51	8	6.37

Source : Ilorin local government education board record (1991-2011)

= spread of development by local government is calculated as :

$$\text{= spread of development} = \frac{\text{school / college}}{\text{Towns / villages}}$$

Analysis of the secondary data collected from the case study from the analysis above (fig 1), the coefficient of correlation (r) is given as 1.224. this figure indicate that there is a positive relationship between towns / villages and the spread development.

r - square shows 1.497 this value indicates that towns / villages account for about 140% of the variance in spread of development.

T- test from the analysis shows 7.36 which is less than the tabulated value at 90% confidence interval with the degree of freedom of 10-1

This means that there is a positive relationship between towns / village and spread of development but the level of relationship is significant.

4.5 SUMMARY OF THE DATA

The result of the test of hypothesis above show a positive correlation between towns / village and the spread of development, this means that there is congruence of the two. But towns / villages do not really have significant effect on the spread of development because the level of relation was low that is less than average of 50%

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Quantitative techniques T. Lucey

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

So far, these research works has attempted to evaluate the significance of community development activities in Ilorin South local government as well as Kwara State in particular and the country at large.

The activities performed over the years have been examined and evaluated to measure the level of development and transformation in the community concern. Various community development activities are clearly highlighted as well as the role played by theses programmes in the overall social, economic and political transformation of the grassroots. It also highlighted constrains faced by communities in their development. Stride.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

The developmental stride of Kwara State as an agricultural state, without much industries in particular, and the rural development has been slow due to the agrarian nature of its economy. However, the present effort by government to revolutionize agricultural industries through adequate finance, use of modem agricultural equipments and resourceful extension agricultural officials as well as the establishment of agro allied industries in the rural communities will bring about the needed changes and development.

Sustained government efforts should be channeled ,to the provision of social amenities, such as good roads to encourage mobility to and from these rural areas.

Provision of basic health chicks and sanitation awareness and facilities, would improve health living Increase productivity. As the slogan health is wealth is a reality.

The provision of electricity and pipe borne water would encourage more agro allied industries for processing of agricultural raw materials. This would increase employment and reduce wastage of on process agricultural output. Clean water in the rural areas would reduce the outbreak of water born disease, through provision and maintenance of bore hole.

There is also the need for government at both state and local government level to involve community members when mooted the construction of any project in a community. Workshops and enlighten training for both local government personnel and representatives of rural communities to enhance cooperation, coordination and proper supervision of activities and projects to benefit the grassroots must be encourage from time to time.

Adequate funnels should be made available to the local government as the classiest tier of government to the people to facilitate, improve participation by rural inhabitants in government activities, in terms of maintaining government structures like schools clinic/dispensary, borehole and rural feeder roads. This will increase productively of the people and increase government revenue drive as well as rapid grow and development.

Sustained effort should be geared towards education and enlightens of the rural population through awareness campaign to help mitigate unforeseen emergencies like epidemic, accidents and natural disaster like rain flood etc.

The requirement of available is limited and scarce. Local government policies and programmes must be tailored towards proper and judicious allocation of resource to meet the needs of the people. Areas of priorities must be identified to avoid the provision of wasteful white elephant projects.

5.3 CONCLUSION

There is the convergence of opinion that the importance of local government as an agent of community development cannot be over emphasized in nation building.

It is imperative therefore, that inhabitants of the local communities be involved in the development planning through the identification of their needs and including the adoption of measures that would discourage and reduce the effect of rural-urban migration.

Provision of agro-industries would increase and expand employment, health and medical facilities would improve and encourage health living and sanitary system. Provision of educational infrastructure would also improve knowledge and awareness amongst the rural population, and raise consciousness about the presence of government in terms of maintenance of law and order in the communities. This has encouraged

mutual cooperation and collaboration between the individuals and the local government in the various rural areas.

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