

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In the spirit of Nigeria Constitution and consonance with the presidential system of government, the local government can be described as the fulcrum of socio – economic and cultural development precisely, Section Seven (7) of the Nigeria Constitution prescribed a local government system in the country. The issues and matter of local concern is better rested in the hand of local authorities. In a simple language, it looks more into the traditional problems.

Local government as the third – tier of government is potentially better placed than other levels of government, state or federal, to provide all manner of services to local people. There is no reason doubting the fact that, because of its closeness and familiarities with local details, local government has the potential to identify local problems, ascertain local needs and demand, set priorities of the varied demand and device. The much needed strategies to detail with the demand as aspirations of the people.

The concept of the local government is not a new one, as there are new one, as there are many powerful and compelling reasons for maintaining an effective system of government at the local levels to make significant contribution to socio – economic development most especially in the developing countries like Nigeria has been stressed by mainly students of development.

More so, they observed that the central governments have created local government and entrusted this third tier of government with the responsibility of promoting socio – economic because it services has a link for participating democracy of the populace at the grassroots.

The general variety of infrastructural facilities in the various local communities can better be addressed by the local government because of its closeness to the people than the state or federal government. The strategic position of local government places it in the best position to feel the problems of local people.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems facing Irepodun local government in the socio – economic development are: - corruption, technology, poor revenue generation, lack of competent staff/personnel, inadequate financial resources, insecurity etc.

Corruption has been a problem in Nigeria, corruption is now seen as cultural among people in the country. Rate at which individual embezzle money and self-centeredness are very high. The case of Irepodun local government has not been left out. This hinders many programmes and policies that are to be carried out in socio – economic development by the councilor.

Technology: Most people/dwellers of Irepodun local government in Kwara State are mostly farmers, they produce foods and other resources either for consumption or for sales purpose, but technology to boost their productivity is not there and this is not bringing progress to the dwellers of Omu – Aran and other areas in the local government (Irepodun local government).

Poor revenue generation: The way and manners at which revenue are been collected in the local government is very poor. The inability of the case study to improve their revenue collection base and colossal amount of under collection of

revenue has contributed significantly to the low finances of the case study. This could be traced to incompetence of staff because qualified and experienced personnel are not attracted to serve as members of local government. Also, haphazard manner of collecting revenue resulting from inadequate planning, lack of technical manpower etc. These obstacles however, has hampered many of their operations in determining the efficiency and effectiveness in socio – economic development.

Lack of competent staff/personnel: The inability of the council to attract experienced and highly trained personnel constitute another problem. Most of these personnel prefer to work at the capital of the Kwara State (Ilorin), the central government or private companies where they may likely receive high salaries as against working in the local government.

Irepodun local government is facing problem of insecurity. This insecurity issues has unnecessary interference in the local affairs of the area. Problem of insecurity has been on the mind of the councilors which is really disturbing the dwellers of Omu – Aran and other communities and this might have affected the development of Irepodun dwellers both social and economically.

1.3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of this research work is to assess the performance of local government in socio – economic and political development of Nigeria using Irepodun local government as a case study.

Therefore, the objectives of the study include;

- 1) To assess the impact of various local government reform on the socio – economic development of the local government.
- 2) To assess the roles and functions of Irepodun local government.
- 3) To discuss the various problems facing Irepodun local government.
- 4) And lastly, to proffer solution to the problems facing Irepodun local government.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study carries out an analysis of the various function and roles performed by the local government using Irepodun Local Government Area of Kwara State as a case study. It tries to find out why the local government has

consistently failed to realize her goal of improving the standard of living of the rural people when it can effectively do so.

This finding shows that in spite of law establishing the local government, the constitutional guarantee of its existence and the functions assigned to it; the local government has not provided effective tools for individual and societal development. The reasons have been as a result of financial problem, administrative problems, organizational and managerial problems, this research intends to recommends solution to these problems.

In view of the above, therefore this study will be of significance in the following way, it will contribute to the existing scholarly literature and provide additional knowledge on how to improve the performance of the local government official to discover their problems and enable them improve on the performance standard.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of this topic is to examine the role of the local government in socio – economic development in Irepodun local government area. The research

work intends to investigate the problems and the research is also limited by time and financial constraints. However with the help of the people around this research has been a success.

1.6 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

This project is arranged into five chapters. Chapter one contains the purpose and objectives of the study, statement of the problem of the study and the scope and limitation of the study. The second chapter contains background of the study, literature review, theoretical framework and current trend in thinking respectively while chapter three provide an historical background of Irepodun local government with function and sources of local government finance including the needs for collecting revenue in local government.

Chapter four presents the analysis of data, that is, analysis of socio – economic development in Irepodun local government and testing of hypothesis while the last chapter, chapter five gives summary, conclusion and recommendations.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Local Government:** Local government can be defined as government at local level, exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within a defined area. 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 to determine and implement projects.
- **Socio – Economic Development:** Socio – economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society. Socio – economic development is measured with indicators, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. It can also be seen as any programme that creates sustainable access to the economy for its beneficiaries, this means that contributions should be providing sustainable benefit, to use the old saying social economic development projects teach people to fish rather than giving them fish.

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CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to say what local government is all about because it means different things to different people in different countries. In Britain, it occupies a more important place in public administration than it does in many other countries. One reason for this is historical, when Britain was developing rapidly in the 19th Century, the function of the government was concerned with national and international affairs but not very much with the local ones. It mostly looked after such things as foreign relations, trade, defense, taxation, law and order etc. The ministries, which were not executive bodies as they are now with department whose tentacle reach out into every towns and villages. Consequently, when the need for local services grew, there were no paternal government department which could deal with the overwhelming demand for sanitation, drinkable water supplies, public health, education and large variety of amenities that were needed in the new towns, when these became urgently necessary, the government

therefore possesses and provide money in form of grants, aid but it passed on the means of administering them to locally elected councils of ordinary citizens.

As a result of the explanation on what brought local government administration, it will be best to give various definitions by scholars on the roles of local government in the socio – economic development.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Definition of Local Government

Local government as a concept has been defined in several ways. Some conceived local government to be government at grassroots because of its communal jurisdiction of operation.

The Guidelines for Local Government Reforms (1976) defined local government as government at the local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These powers should give the staff and institutional body the financial powers to initiate and direct the provisions of services to determined and implement projects.

Ola (1984) defines local government as a political sub – division of a nation or state which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs including the powers to impose taxes or to exert labour for prescribed purposes.

According to Akindele (1990), local government is an essential instrument of a nation or state government for the performance of certain basic services which could best be administered locally on the intimate knowledge of the needs, conditions and peculiarities of the areas concerned. He went further to explain that, a local government unites people in a defined area in a common organisation whose functions are essentially residents of the satisfaction of common community needs. Local government is the means by which a local community satisfies jointly its common problems and needs which would have been difficult of solutions by individuals.

The International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (1972) sees local government to mean political sub – divisions of national or regional government which performs functions which in nearly all cases receives its loyal power from the national or regional government but possesses some degree of discretion on making of decisions and which normally has some taxing powers.

Oladosun (1981) examined the term local government from the angle of its essential features. He sees a local government as often been characterized by the provisions of opportunity for the local area or community to determine their own political, economic and social destiny by actively participating in the making and execution of decision that affects in the way they deem fit. In his opinion, which this is down, local government will be serving to awaken the citizen political consciousness and thus mitigating the participatory inadequacies of national or state government.

Characteristically therefore, local government can be said to

- 1) Function within a defined geographical territory.
- 2) Have a required resident population.
- 3) Operate as a separate legal entity.
- 4) Are created and derived their powers from state government, although they spring from local communities of which they should be its representative.
- 5) Have institutional and administrative purposes.
- 6) Connotes local self-determination.

2.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN THINKING

Social development is the promotion of a sustainable society that is worthy of human dignity by empowering marginalized groups and to undertakes their own development to improve their social and economic position as well as to acquire their rightful place in society (Bilance 1991:32) local government administration “social development is equality of social opportunities”.

The Copenhagen Social Summit (1995) defined social development in terms of three basic criteria

1. Poverty eradication
2. Employment generation
3. Social harmony

Economic development generally refers to the sustained, converted actions of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. Economic development can also be referred to as the quantitative and qualitative changes in the economy. Such actions can involve multiple areas including development of human capital, critical infrastructure, regional competitiveness, environmental sustainability, social

inclusion, health safety, literacy and other initiatives. Economic development is the development of economic wealth of counties, regional or communities for the well-being of their inhabitants. From a policy perspective, economic development can be defined as efforts that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of a community by creating and/or refraining jobs and supporting or growing incomes and the tax base.

Socio – economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society.

Socio – economic development is measured with indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment, changes in less – tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participating in civil society.

Causes of socio – economic impacts are for example, new technologies, changes in laws in the physical environment and ecological changes.

The current socio – economic development strategy is crucial to halt and reverse the trend of growing poverty and some other challenges in the local

government and to help Nigeria become a united, industrious, caring and democratic society, committed to making the basic needs affordable for everyone and creating Africa's leading economy.

Local government helps in provisions of socio – economic development for the locality. Building of health centers, recruitment of voluntary workers, educating the local communities on Expanded Programme in Immunization (EPI), building of cottage industries, the opening of new markets and the spreading of commerce, the provisions of means of transport, good roads, electricity, pipe borne water, recreational facilities etc.

Poverty can mostly effectively be tackled through the promotion of democracy, good governance, peace and security as well as the development of human and physical resources. Key social economic thrust such as promoting gender equality, allocation of appropriate funds to the social sector, as well as promoting new partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society, are also essential in this area.

There are some objectives pursued by local governments in Nigeria in which the case study too is not exempted;

- i. Promoting self-reliance in development and building capacity for self – sustaining development.
- ii. Accelerating socio – economic development to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- iii. Strengthening policies, delivery mechanisms and outputs in key social development areas (including education for all, combating of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases).
- iv. Ensuring affordable access to water, energy, finance, markets (including micro – finance), Information Communication Technology (ICT) to all citizens, especially the rural poor.
- v. Encouraging broad based participation in development by all stakeholders at all levels.

2.4 FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In order to realize the objectives of creating local government, it must be of necessary to carry out certain functions. It is the main duty of the local government to formulate and execute policies for the local area. The enforcement

of the local government policies by – laws and revenue collections readies in the customary courts and even in higher courts such as the magistrate and high courts.

The functions of the local government falls under two categories;

(A) Functions that are the exclusive responsibility of the local government save in exceptional or temporary circumstance, these include:

- i) Building of markets and motor parks.
- ii) Sanitary inspection, refuse and night soil disposal.
- iii) Control of vermin.
- iv) Slaughter houses, slaughter slabs.
- v) Public convenience.
- vi) Burial grounds
- vii) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- viii) Provision of community and local recreation centers.
- ix) Parks, garden and public open spaces.
- x) Grazing grounds, fuel plantations.
- xi) Licensing, supervision and regulation of bake house and laundries.
- xii) Licensing, regulation and control of the sales of liquor.

- xiii) Licensing and regulation of bicycles, hand cart and other types of vehicles except those mechanically propelled and canoes.
- xiv) Control of keeping of animals.
- xv) Control of hoardings, advertisements, use of loudspeakers, in or near public places, drumming.
- xvi) Naming of roads and streets and numbering of plot/buildings.
- xvii) Control and collections of revenue from forestry outside the forest estates to gazette forest reserves.
- xviii) Collecting property rate and other rates, community tax and other designated revenues sources.

(B) Functions regarded as local government responsibilities, although state governments and other organizations may also perform parts or whole of these functions particularly if the local governments are not supposed or equipped to perform the functions initially, these includes;

- (i) Health center, such as maternity center, dispensaries, health clinics and ambulances.

- (ii) Abattoirs and meat inspections.
- (iii) Nursery, primary and adult education.
- (iv) Information and public enlightenment.
- (v) Provision of scholarship and bursaries.
- (vi) Agricultural extension, animal health extension services and veterinary clinics.
- (vii) Rural and semi – urban water supply.
- (viii) Fire services.
- (ix) Provision of roads and streets (other than truck roads) their lighting and drainage.
- (x) Control of water and atmospheric pollution.
- (xi) Control of beggars, prostitution and repatriation destitute.
- (xii) Provision of homes for destitute, the infirm and orphans.
- (xiii) Provision of public utilities except where restricted by other legislation, specifically including the provision of road and inland water transport.
- (xiv) Provision of public housing programme, operation of commercial undertakings and control of traffic and parking.

- (xv) Regulation and control of buildings, towns and county planning.
- (xvi) Pipe sewage system.

2.5 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

As earlier indicated above, the executive arms of the local government is constituted by the chairman, the vice chairman elected with him, the secretary and supervisors appointed by the chairman. The specific functions of these key officers in the handbook of local government (1999) are as follows;

(A) THE CHAIRMAN

The chairman, as the chief executive and accounting officer shall perform the following functions: He shall observe and comply fully with the checks and balances spelt out in the existing guidelines and financial regulations governing receipt and disbursement of the public funds and other assets entrusted to his care and shall be liable for any breach thereof.

- a) His accountability shall not cease by virtue of his leaving office and he may be called upon, at any time, even after leaving office to account for his tenure as chairman.
- b) The chairman as the chief executive and accounting officer shall face periodic checks in order to ensure full adherence to the finance (control and management) and to this end.
 - i) All instructions relating to expenditure to public funds by accounting officers shall be in writing.
 - ii) All accounting officers shall be responsible to account to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for all monies voted for each department and shall be particularly liable.
 - iii) The local government chairman shall render quarterly returns of the actual income and expenditure of the local government to the state government for onward transmission to the office of the vice – president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a copy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

- iv) The chairman shall ensure strict adherence/observance of the spending limits by all concerned.
- v) All reference to the secretary as accounting officer in the financial regulations and any other rules, regulations, guidelines, edicts or laws shall be constructed as reference to the chairman.
- vi) The chairman shall hold meetings with the members of the executive committee of the local government, i.e. vice – chairman, secretary and supervisors at least once every week.
- vii) The chairman shall direct the officers of the local government and shall allocate responsibilities to the vice – chairman, secretary and supervisors at least once every week.
- viii) He shall maintain liaison with the local government legislature and the leader of the legislature in the interest of the local government.
- ix) He shall countersign the annual performance evaluation report of the heads of department of the local government which shall be initiated by the secretary to the local government.

(B) THE VICE - CHAIRMAN

The vice – chairman, who shall be elected with the chairman of local government, shall be assigned responsibilities for the administration of a department of the local government,

- i) He shall act for the chairman in his absence.
- ii) The vice – chairman may be called upon at any time, even after leaving office, to account for his tenure as vice – chairman.

(C) THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- (a) The secretary to the local government shall be appointed by the chairman and shall hold his office at the pleasure of the chairman. He shall serve as the secretary of the meeting of the executive committee of the local government and keep the record thereof.
- (b) Coordinate the activities of the departments of the local government.
- (c) Liaise, on behalf of the chairman, with the local government council through the leader of the council.

- (d) Liaise with the secretary to the state government and other necessary state functionaries on state – local government relations.
- (e) Performs such other duties as may be assigned to him, from time to time by the chairman.

(D) SUPERVISORS

The supervisors shall be appointed by the chairman of the local government in consultation with the local council. Each supervisor shall hold his appointment at the pleasure of the local government chairman who appointed him/her and supervisor's tenure shall automatically remain the discretion of the chairman.

The functions of the supervisory councilors as the political heads are as follows;

- (a) Political heads of their respective departments.
- (b) Member of the finance and general purpose committee which in effect is the cabinet to the local government.

- (c) Giving directives to executive heads of local government departments or general policy issues only, but not on the internal management of the department.
- (d) Assisting the chairman to supervise the execution of local government projects within their respective departments.
- (e) Chairman of relevant committee i.e. their respective departments (such as education, works, health etc.)
- (f) Carrying out such other functions as chairman or council may assign to them from time to time.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The legislature comprises the leader of the council, the deputy leader and councilors. The legislature powers vested in the local government council are exercised through the bye – laws passed by its legislature and assented to by the chairman.

The functions of the legislature in the local government includes;

i. Law making

The legislature makes bye – laws. The list of matters on which a local government council is expressly empowered to enact bye – laws are contained in Section 1(a) of the Fourth Schedule of the 1999 Constitution for the exclusive list. The concurrent lists of matters on which both a local government council and the state assembly have powers to legislate on are on Section 2(a) b of the Fourth Schedule.

ii. Making Resolutions and Approval

The council exercises its power through resolutions and approval in relation to individual or specific areas.

- A resolution to remove the chairman or leader of the council by a two third majority. This function is distinct from the authority to make bye – laws, which have wide applicability in the area.
- The power to approve by a simple majority of the members of the council, the nomination of the chairman of the local government, for the appointment of the vice – chairman of the local government in case of vacancy by reason of death, resignation or removal.

- The power to approve the nomination of any one appointed by the chairman of the local government as supervisor.

2.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Finance is the bedrock of any organisation in which the local government is also among. In this analysis of the society, Karl Marx was apt to submit that there are basically two principal structures in the society, the first being the substructure and the second being superstructure. The first, sub – structure refers to the economic system, while the second, the superstructure refers to the political system. The thinker went on to aver that the substructure controls the super – structure. Put in other words, the economy of any given society dictates the political structure of that society.

Hence, we intend to say that the finance of the local government can dictate the pace of the administrations of the local government. Surely, the success or failure of the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of any local government largely depend on financial resources available to the individual local authorities and the way these resources are utilized (Adedeji, 1969).

Local government finance can be defined as the sum total of the fiscal and monetary obligations of the government at the local level. It is concerned with how the local government source and manage its funds in order to achieve the common goals.

2.7 PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Ojong (2002:112) highlights some factors that inhibit the performance of local government generally, this paper extrapolates these factors, they are similar to the factors that hinder the performance of local government in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These problems include;

- Poor financial base and limited revenue.
- Limited autonomy, where although constitutionally recognized, the federal and state governments dominate over the local government through the state government offices of local government affairs, the ministry of local government, and the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC).

- Leadership problem: This arises where the quality of leadership at both political levels is low.
- Lack of basic social amenities such as power supply (electricity, transport and telecommunications facilities).
- Unqualified, inexperienced and unskilled staff.
- Corruption and misappropriation of fund.
- Lack of accountability: Accountability entails compliance, that is being held to account transparency, that is giving an account.
- Lack of local plans and weak programming capacity.
- Instability arising from interferences from the higher tiers of government, who distort their powers, structure, leadership, finance and reduce their capacity to act on their own, thereby making them solely dependent.

2.8 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Based on the various definitions given by scholars on the meaning of local government, it is pertinent to note that, local government is the creation of an

authority which is constituted by law to carry out specific functions in their respective localities.

Summarily, the major premises on which local government is built are the administrative efficiency and political education at the grassroots level. The former is concerned with the current trend in thinking, socio – economics development is the process of social and economic development in the society. The roles at which local government plays in the socio – economic development cannot be over emphasized, socio – economic development has helped to reduced poverty and some other vices in the local government.

Local government is not merely an administrative devise designed to maximize functional efficiency. For if all is required is in the efficient provision of service, what we need is not local government but field administration in which more qualified and experienced central government officials can save to provide more efficiently than the local government staff. Then the whole idea of election and local councils will be meaningless and unnecessary. The political role of government has an underlying philosophical preference of one particular form of rulership to another, local government is seen as a vital bulwark of democracy at the local level, as a practical means of distributing power widely in the society of providing opportunity for the people to determine the destiny of their local communities by having an effective say in the running of their own affairs.

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CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

It is very important in research findings to make use of some data collection techniques which will serve as the ground upon which the research is based on.

This chapter introduces the sources of data collected, sample and population of the study and the method of data analysis. Research method is an important aspect of project writing because it determines the procedures by which a researcher gathers data/information in order to present a successful findings.

In the course of carrying out this study, both primary and secondary source of data were used. The primary source of research such as getting information personally through interview, observation, discussion with the people of the local government area while secondary source of information were obtained from publications like journals, magazines reports etc.

3.2 SAMPLE AND POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The researcher shall examine a limited sample from the total population, since it may be difficult to observe the whole population under study. Questionnaires would be administered to some members of staff of Irepodun Local Government to examine the local government administration and relationship with socio – economic development. Irepodun Local Government is a large complex organisation, hence, a need to draw some samples from the populated members of staff to reach a successful conclusion of this research.

Irepodun Local Government Area of Kwara State has five (5) districts and wards respectively. They are shown below;

DISTRICTS AND WARDS

S/N	Districts	Wards
1.	Omu – Aran/Arandun	Omu – Aran I, II, III and Arandun
2.	Ajase – Ipo	Ajase – Ipo I, II
3.	Oro	Oro I, II
4.	Esie/Ijan	Esie/Ijan
5.	Oko	Oko

Questionnaire will be administered to 3 to 4 wards out of the five (5) wards and districts respectively because it might be difficult to administer it to all.

3.3 SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

There are two sources of data for the research study. These are primary and secondary sources. The primary source deals with interview that was done to find out some impacts of Irepodun Local Government towards the socio – economic development, observation of operations and procedures of the study. The secondary sources are information collected by the use of the official documents like internet, textbooks, etc.

(A) INTERVIEW

Interview was used as a method of collecting data or information in this research work, it is a very effective and efficient type of communication. Interview was conducted with some officials of Irepodun Local Government and they were important officers of the local government.

Some of the questions asked are as follows:

- i) How has Irepodun Local Government been able to promote self – reliance in development and build capacity for self – sustaining development?
- ii) How has Irepodun Local Government plays significant roles in pursuing their goals?
- iii) What are the major challenges faced by Irepodun Local Government?
- iv) What are the steps taken to remedy the challenges?
- v) What are the main sources of revenue in Irepodun Local Government?

(B) OBSERVATION

This specifically denotes the perception one gives to a certain trends regarding the authority of any organisation. The writer have been familiarized with the systems of operation and procedures added to the reference to some publications on role of local government in socio – economic development in Nigeria and some other countries and lectures attended by the researcher.

Irepodun Local Government have been playing significant roles in socio – economic development of his dwellers. The people of Irepodun have been enjoying from the researcher observation. They have been able to promote gender

equality, allocation of appropriate funds to the social sector, as well as promoting new partnership between governments, the private sectors and civil society.

(C) USE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

This involves sorting through internet to give an insight into different definition of socio – economic, its importance and some other relevant issues relating to socio – economic development. Also, the use of textbooks to know what local government mean, sources of local government revenue and duties as well as responsibilities or functions of local government.

3.4 METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

There are various methods of analyzing data in the social sciences, but the researcher adopt the simple mathematical approach that would be in forms of simple percentage. Data analysis is very significant in any project. Originality should be made the watchword of modern project/thesis writing, hence, the aim and objective of the researcher to use the mathematical approach in analyzing the information gathered is for better understanding.

It is however pertinent to note that, the importance of simple percentage in the presentation of tabulated and analysis of data would serve a huge purpose in this research write – up.

3.5 RESEARCH PROBLEMS

It should be mentioned and appreciated that the continuous survival of any country or organisation depends largely on research findings. Nevertheless, both research institutions and individual researcher faces many problems while carrying out their findings or even after the project exercise.

The followings are the major obstacles faced by researcher in the cause of this project writing;

- i) Lack of adequate fund and sponsorship.
- ii) The members of staff in their own part failed to provide those information which would have been very useful for the research.
- iii) Time constraint in the part of the researcher to manage both lectures and research is another hindrance.

Having listed the problems above, the researcher still made an unrelenting effort to overcome such inherent challenges in order to produce a result that could be useful to the Irepodun Local Government Councils and even other local government councils across the country.

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CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the historical background of Irepodun Local Government. The benefit and importance of this chapter is also to present and analyze the various information gathered by the researcher using a tabulated simple percentage form in order to derive a meaningful conclusion.

4.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF IREPODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The local government was created as Igbomina/Ekiti division in 1968 and later metamorphosed into Irepodun Local Government in 1976 as a result of 1976 Local Government Reform. Omu – Aran remain the seat of power with eleven wards and six Area Offices for administrative services.

It shares boundary with Ifelodun Local Government to the North, Osun State to the South, Ekiti and Offa Local Government to the East and West respectively with a population of about 148,610 people according to the 1991 Population Census and a landmass of 1,095 square kilometer. It is endowed with

Savannah and Ram forest vegetation on a plain terrain with patches of rivers and streams. The people of the area are predominantly farmers and speak Yoruba.

4.3 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter present the findings of the study and analyze the data collected.

The socio – economic characteristics of the respondents which include sex, age etc. are discussed first since the background knowledge of these characteristics will help us more in the understanding of their responses in term of assessing performance of Irepodun Local Government in Kwara State.

4.4 DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE ONE

Question 1: Are the communities in this local government fully participating in the socio – economy development?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	38	95
No	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey, 2025.

From the table presented above, it is deduced that majority (95%) of the people living in this council are aware that not only government will provide their needs, hence, they should also participate in the development related projects in their localities to assist the government in its efforts.

TABLE TWO

Question 2: Do you think that, the communities in this council have the resources (human and materials) to embark on self-help project?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	10	25
No	30	75
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey, 2025.

The above table proved that nearly all the communities in this council do not have enough resources to carryout self-help projects as this in turn can hinder progressive development of these communities.

TABLE THREE

Question 3: Do the communities initiate any development projects in this local government?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	15	37.5
No	25	62.5
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025.

From the above table, 15 respondents representing (37.5%) believed that the communities do not initiate development projects. While 25 respondents representing (62.5%) believes that government takes active role in socio – economics development.

TABLE FOUR

Question 4: Do you feel the impact of socio – economic development by this local government?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	30	75
No	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey, 2025.

The table above shows that 75% of the respondents responded positively and 25% of the respondents responded negatively. In this case, it shows that Irepodun Local Government are effective in their role in the socio – economic development of the areas.

TABLE FIVE

Question 5: Does the local government authority concentrate more on urban areas than rural areas of the council?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agree	20	50
Disagree	15	37
Undecided	5	12
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey, 2025.

Table Five (5) indicates that the authorities do not concentrate on rural areas, rather they contribute to site development projects in the urban areas of the council.

TABLE SIX

Question 6: Do government allow the dwellers/communities to participate in decision making concerning the socio – economy development of Irepodun Local Government?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agree	15	37.5
Disagree	10	25
Undecided	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025.

As shown in the table above, it can be deduced that the number of those who agreed that they were allowed to partake in making developmental decision is the same as those are neutral to the question.

TABLE SEVEN

Question 7: Do you agree that if the spirit of self-help initiative is encouraged, this local government will move forward?

Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agree	40	100
Disagree	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025.

The above table shows that, all the respondents agreed and believed that the local government can move forward and developed if the spirit of self-help initiative is encouraged.

4.5 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the information gathered, it can be deduced that the respondents agreed while some disagreed to the questions and some other matters in the questionnaire administered. It is crystal clear from the information that Irepodun Local Government have been able to carry out its functions effectively and

efficiently. The local government have been able to perform its roles in the socio-economic development of its area in particular and the country in general.

Some areas in the local government area were been constructed, in terms of their roads, pipe borne waters, they rendered to them some developmental project like electricity, health care, education (e.g. giving of textbooks to the students, renovating classrooms and the likes), the local government have been able to utilize their human and material resources effectively, they have been able to make use of their little resources to render much services the entire populace, the people of Oro, Ajase – Ipo, Arandun, Ijan – Otun and some areas around the local government enjoys the roles of the local government. In relation to the view of the people in the area, they make us understand that the authority do not concentrate more on urban areas, rather they contribute both to urban and rural areas in the local government.

Another reason that leads to success in socio – economic development in Irepodun is that, they allow the dwellers/communities to participate in decision making concerning the socio – economic development projects in the local government.

4.6 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

The socio – economic characteristic of the respondents which include sex, age and marital status etc. are discussed since the background knowledge of these characteristics will help us more in the understanding to their response in term of assessing the performance of Irepodun Local Government. Due to the extent spirit of the 1976 Reform of Local Government throughout the country, the then Head of State, the General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida embarked on the creation of the state and the local government to bring government nearer to the people and to foster participatory government and democracy to might from the grassroots. The presentation of data analysis, the socio – economy characteristics of the respondents and the chapter present the findings to the study if analysis of the data collected.

This chapter is devoted to the brief history of Irepodun Local Government and the presentation as well as the analysis of the findings of the research. Information obtained from the field work is presented in tabular forms by the use of simple percentage method.

REFERENCE

Findings from the Researcher's Field Survey (2025).

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The major arguments of this research has been that local government as the third tier of government can perform better in its role of improving the social and economic life of the people provided it operates within a suitable environment, that is, factor such as availability of adequate states and federal government functionaries in terms of inspection, approval of policies and provision of infrastructure to the rural areas.

Based on the outcome of the research findings, it has become an imperative to note that local government is the government at the grassroots level, which is constituted and saddled with the responsibility of piloting the affairs of the rural dweller. From this, it can be seen that no community can survive without the machinery called government. For effective and efficient administration of the country, government is therefore divided into three viz: the federal government, state and local government respectively. Local government function in modern

day has become more pronounced because of its closeness to the people at the grassroots.

From the findings, it was discovered that government at the local level have been trying with all possible means to ensure the improvement of standards of living in their locality. But however, it should be noted that, responsibilities can only be effective, if there is adequate and strong financial base. The community leaders are also expected to encourage the people in the rural areas to embark upon such projects that will enhance and improves their standard of living and seek the assistance of the local government. Local government is also expected to apply a significant role in the sensitization of local people to jointly participate in decision making of their respective areas. From the information gathered, it becomes clear that, there is a serious relationship between the local government administration and rural development (socio-economic development).

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

The study of Irepodun Local Government has shown that the local government had not been able to extract and utilize the human and materials

resources available to it to its fullest, so as to improve the living standard of the community.

Although, the local government can be rated average in term of provision of social amenities and to coordinate local, state and national development plans. However, it was found that the objective of socio – economic development have not been totally achieved in the local government in terms of increase poor statistical base for effective planning, per capital income, inability to absorb the labour force so as to check rural urban exodus.

In conclusion therefore, the poor standard of living and the inability of the local government to function affectively could be attributed to the inability of the local government to sources finance internally but to rely in the tax of the state and the federal government.

Thus, the federal government should provide much funds to effect adequate socio – economic programmes. This will not only improve the community alone, but also the nation at large.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Since this is an academic research and not a royal commission, a task force on the report of a public enquiry. Hence, it need not catalogue, recommendation, suggestion or policy unit, rather it should in itself be sufficiently challenging and suggestive, that is, various reader can get their various message from it.

However, because the plight of local government has by and large being unfortunate in this country and because the future might be as slippery. The researcher, therefore wishes to end this by making a few recommendations for improving local government effective performance in the discharge of their developmental responsibilities.

Firstly, the local government should be given law and practice, reasonable autonomous status and clear out functions to complement the activities of other levels of government.

Thus, there should be actual devolution of authority which will give the local government both the freedom to decide, implement and function independently in order to develop their localities.

This will make them stronger since a strong local government is not only vital to the growth and success of democracy but also a pre-requisite to successful economic and social development to the state or country.

Secondly, although the policy of Obasanjo administration on direct disbursement of funds to the local government is highly welcome as the well-being racial change in the financial power base of the local government by the state government. To complete the process, the present revenue allocation formula should be reviewed in such a way that a great percentage of the National Income goes to federal government (Abuja included) state government and local government.

The above distribution represents the minimum that would be given to the state and local government if the ruling elite are serious in their prognosis about the development of rural communities.

Moreover, for this policy of direct allocation to yield a fruitful result, there should be a separate account for the local and state government to which the federal government pay directly the statutory federal allocation to all government

within the state. It will be the responsibility of the bank to shade the fund to local government within the state recording to laid down criteria.

The state government should pay 10% of their total intend revenue to the same bank. The bank should be mandated to send quarterly reports to federal government. The federal government should provide adequate fund for this scheme which will operate in a form of revolving loan of a reduced interest rate.

Thirdly, there is an urgent need to enhance the executive capacity of the local government by recruiting into its service technically, competent, qualified and experience professional and technicians. The local government service should be adaptable to new methods and react in fulfilling new tasks to ensure the realization of professionalism in the local government and the otherwise should be immediately prohibited.

Fourthly, for any local government that is committed to the fulfillment of grassroots democracy and provision of social services must have a meaningful population to be able to make political and economic sense and those that will steer the affairs of the local government should be elected. Therefore, the researcher recommend that villages that makes up the local government should

be made attractive and accommodative so as to reduce the population of people migrating to major towns and cities. Similarly, the communities should be encouraged to carryout self – help projects.

All the above recommendations are aimed at solving not only the weakness of the Irepodun Local Government but also the country at large. The weakness of Irepodun Local Government are not expected in a new colonial and underdeveloped society, this is as a result of the ills of the society unrealistic and corrupt orientation and attitude of the ruling class which have penetrated the society.

Finally, the condition of service of Irepodun Local Government staff should be enhanced in order to attract and retain more competent and highly qualified personnel in the service.

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