

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Local government system is very central to the development process all over the world as the system is designed to develop the rural area and its people. Thus, the local administration discharges its political and economic mandates to the people by providing them basic social amenities such as feeder roads, pipe borne water, construction of market stores and provision of primary healthcare centers, among others (Raji and Garuba, 2019). As posited by Osuagwu (2008), local government is a very vital system of government involving administration of public affairs in each locality with considerable amount of responsibilities and discretionary power to administer local community. Local government all over the world also represents a political division in a federal system, constituted by law to develop the local areas. As an important lowest unit of administration in a state, the centrality of the local government to the development aspirations of the citizens cannot be over emphasized.

The reason for the establishment of local government all over the world is to bring the pulse and the activities of the government nearer to the people (Ozor, 2002). However, it will be well-nigh difficult, if not impossible, for the mere presence of such government to make a difference except if and only if it engages itself with the process of community development. The dual concepts of local government and community development just like every other concept in the social sciences have no universal definition. But for the purpose of this study, local government shall be defined as a third tier government with adequate statutory power designed to transmit the pulse and activities of other arms of government to the people at the grassroots and at the same time, transmit the quest and aspiration of the rural people to those other arms of government. The Guidelines for Local Government Reforms in Nigeria of 1976 defined it as "Government at local level exercised through a representative council established by law to exercise specific powers and function within defined areas". Community development, on the other hand, shall be defined both as a process and as a movement.

The Cambridge University Conference on African Administration of 1946, defined the concept as a movement to promote better living for the whole community with the active participation and if possible, on the initiative of the community, but if this initiative is not forth coming by the use of technique for arousing and stimulating it in order to secure its active and enthusiastic response to the movement. It includes the whole range of development activities in the districts, whether these are under taken by the Government or unofficial bodies (World Bank, 1975). As a process, it is seen as "a process of education by which people of all ages and all interests in the community learn to share their thought, their ideals, their aspirations, their joy and their sorrows in a large measure to mold and shape their communal destiny for themselves". It is a process of self-discovery by which the people of a community learn to identify and solve their communal problems. The essential elements of community development include: the people should be active participants and thus, have significant control over the developmental process attention must be on the quest and aspirations of the people. The concept of self-help is equally of a great essence to the community development process. The community must be viewed as a total entity and not as sub-units.

Over the years, many concepts had been employed to describe the concept, community development. Akukwe (1996) noted that community development had been associated with such names like social education, mass education, functional education and rural constructive work. Sanders (1970) in the same vein expressed the same by nothing that community development had been described as a fusion of community organization and economic development. In the traditional African milieu, there have been the processes of community reconstruction activities through communal labour and self-help efforts. In the Eastern Nigeria, it is referred to as "Olu obodo" implying community work. Aside from these informal traditional community development practices, the formal institutionalization foundation of the process was securely laid in the outcome of the social disturbances and upheavals in the British West Indies (Oji PN 2004).

Thus, a Royal commission was put in place to investigate and check the phenomenon. Akukwe (1991) noted that during the early 40's a new colonial and welfare Act was enacted by the British government on the administration of the colonies. After the Second World War, both the political and social agitation of the colonies heightened and thus resulting in the British government in 1947 to organize an African conference on the administration of the colonies following the advice of Creek Jones, who then was the secretary of state for the colonies. Akukwe (1996) further noted that it was the outcome of the conference that made the British Government in (1948) to become more interested in the African State under its imperial authority.

At the Cambridge conference of thirty British territories, the concept came into proper usage; the conference defined the concept community development as a movement designed to promote better living for the whole community with active participation and on the initiative of the community (Colonial Office, 1955).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the several developmental programs like National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Universal Basic Education (UBE), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS etc embarked upon by Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with state and local government facilitate development down to rural area yet, Moro local government is presumed to have provided less rural development in terms of provision of social amenities such as health care centre, quality education, poor road network, lack of drinkable or tap water. Many scholars have worked on local government administration and rural development such as (Okoli 2000, Ezeani 2006, Onuorah 2006, Olley 2011) and so on but none has written on the roles of local government administration in community development in Moro local government area, Kwara state. This study intends to fill the gap.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate on the roles of local government in community development in Moro local government of Kwara State while the specific objectives of the study are to:

- a. trace the historical background of Moro local government;
- b. examine the nexus between local government and community development in Moro;
- c. identify the challenges confronting community development in Moro local government; and
- d. suggest ways in which community development could be facilitated and improved in Moro.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study will help to know the historical background of Moro local government area of Kwara State. It will contribute to the existing scholarly interactive and provide additional knowledge on local government administration in Nigeria. It will help the local government officials to discover their problems and enable them to improve the standard of their performances. It will serve as guidance to revenue collectors and policy makers. Besides, it will contribute to the body of existing knowledge to relevant area.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The geographical scope of the study is Moro local government area of Kwara State while the subject scope focuses on local government and community development. The timeline for this work covers the period of 2015 to 2024.

The limitations of the study include time and financial constraints and unavailability of some documents that are relevant to this research work.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study is divided in five chapters. Chapter one contains introduction, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, organization of the study, and definition of terms are used in the study, and references.

Chapter two focuses on literature review and theoretical framework, summary of the chapter with references. Chapter three deals with research methodology, introduction, sample and population of the study, method of data analysis, research problem and references

Chapter four has to do with data presentation analysis and interpretation of findings introduction, brief history of the case study, presentation of data, analysis of data, testing of hypothesis, summary of data and references Chapter five contains summary, recommendations and conclusion with bibliography.

1.7 Definition of Terms

- I. Local government: Local government is a non-sovereign community possessing of the legal right and the necessary organization to regulate its own affairs at the grass root level.
- II. Development: This refers to positive changes which affect the majority and which lie in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of societal life.
- III. Community: This refers to a small or large social unit (a group of living things) who have something in common.

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CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on Scholars' opinion on local government and community development.

2.2 Conceptual Discourse

2.2.1 Local Government

Ola and Tonwe (2009) define local government as “a political sub-division of a nation or (in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law with substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exert labour for prescribed purpose. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected”. Bello (in Akhakpe (2011) describes local government as “that unit of administration with defined territory and powers as well as administrative authority with relative autonomy”. Adewale (2017) defines local government as a political sub-division of a nation in Federal system which is constituted by law with a substantial control of local affairs which includes the power to impose taxes or exact labour for prescribed purpose.

2.2.2 Development

Development refers to man's progressive qualitative and continued improvement of human labour (Chukwuemeka, 2013). Development is needed not only to enable citizens have higher standards of living and material advancement, but also to achieve socio-economic and political transformation as well as attain technological feats over the environment (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2003). Development is viewed as “multi-dimensional, referring to positive changes which affect the majority and which lie in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of societal life. According to Rudeback (1997) development is about the people, beginning from the grassroots where majority of Nigerians live. It is the ability of a people to use their cultural values over a period of time to change their situation whereby each new stage is better than the preceding one. Development involves a departure from the past to the new situation, which is reflected in the economic, social, educational and political aspects of a nation.

Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) said that development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. However, Gboyega (2003), subsequently cited in Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) opines that development implies improvement in material well-being of all citizens, not the most powerful and the rich alone, in a sustainable way, such that today's consumption does not imperil the future; it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. The concept of development in this study is in tandem with the opinion of Gboyega (2003). Rodney (1972) defines development as: “a many-side process. At the level of the individuals, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing”. Todaro (1977) notes that development must therefore be conceived as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty.

In essence, development must represent the entire gamut of changes by which the entire social system turned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within the system moves away from the conditions of life regarded as materially and spiritually “better”. This means that development involves the re-organization and re-orientation of the entire economic and social system. This also involves, in addition to improvement of income and output, radical changes in institutions, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes, customs and beliefs. Nwali and Nkwede (2010) conclude that development at the individual level implies progressive increase in skills and capacity to earn income, gain greater freedom for action which is expressed in creativity for the attainment of both material and psychological wellbeing of the man. This definition is unique because it touches all aspects of human being and the society. More so, the definition is unique because of accommodating such elements that could enhance human and societal development.

Nwali and Nkwede believe that for development to occur, it must involve: progress i.e. whatever is development has to progress from one level to a higher level, increase in skills and capacity i.e. the skills and capacity to transcend beyond underdevelopment, income oriented i.e. ability to command amount of income capable of pushing such individual and society to another level, and ability to gain greater freedom for action i.e. freedom from dependence, freedom from poverty, freedom from diseases and disasters. Development is also aimed at improving the living conditions of the people through the effective management of both the human and materials resources. Thus, Gana (1986) notes that “Development concerns the capacity and creative capability of a people to effectively transform the natural resources of their environment into goods and services through the imaginative and practical application of their creative talent and productive power”. This implies that the people must be empowered to be able to meet their basic needs of food, housing, health, transport, education, employment, reduction in poverty level and increased per capita income among others.

Aborisade (1988) highlights the various development programmes designed by successive governments in Nigeria, which aimed at developing the rural communities. He gives an example of River Basin and Rural Development Authorities established in 1975 to promote rural development. He laments that in practice the scheme bloated bureaucracies feeding on mega million naira contracts for irrigation and other agricultural projects while the rural areas for which they are meant seemed to have recorded deeper in debilitating poverty. Nnoli (1980) sees self-help, as a strategy for rural development as a form of exploitation because, according to him, for the rural people it is viewed as the task resort to their survival due to government neglect. According to him, the community development process arises from the crying need of the rural population for social welfare services, unwillingness of the rural class to provide these amenities, the exploitation of the ruling class of the competition among

communities for those social artefacts which are deemed to reflect social progress, and the exploitation by the ruling class at the tendency by Nigerians to invest more time, energy and resources and those tasks approved by their communities than those sanctioned by the national collectively via-the-state.

2.2.3 Community Development

Community development is defined within the National Occupational Standards for Community Development as: a long term value-based process which aims to address imbalances in power and bring about change founded on social justice, equality and inclusion. The process enables people to organize and work together to: identify their own needs and aspirations, take action to exert influence on the decisions which affect their lives, improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live and societies of which they are a part. Darby and Morris in Nkwede (2009) defines community development as “an education which would raise levels of local awareness and increase the confidence and ability of community groups to identify and tackle their own problems.

United Nations (1948) community development is viewed as that practice of coming together by Persons in the community to undertake group action and proffer common resolutions to challenges and difficulties facing the community. It constitutes the action taken by community leaders, advocates, concern citizens and experts to elevate the standard of life in the community with a view to building a stronger and improved local communities. The process of community development is to foster both social and economic development for the entire people in the community through the community’s active involvement and full initiative. Ogunna (1989) believes that most writers on community development are influenced by their fields of study in their definition of the concept. Thus, some economists would consider it in terms of “encouraging some local material development”. Some political scientists emphasize such as “enlargement of individual freedom and mass democratic process”. On the other hand, some Sociologists stress “group development and group action”.

Community development agents are swept off their guard by the imperatives of local problems and this leads to the elevation of ‘community’ development to an end in itself. When this happens, ‘community’ development assumes an independent status from ‘national’ development even though this has never been intended. But an emphasis on national development programmes starts off with the premise that societal or national betterment is the goal and by stressing application at different levels, it highlights the need for coordination and continuity. The development agent at the community level is constantly reminded of the need for harmonization of efforts with those at other levels. It is therefore necessary to stress national as opposed to community development (Ifiokobong, 2016).

2.2.4 Goals and Objectives of Community Development

The goals of community development should be to improve people’s productivity and enable them to participate in their social, political and economic life into the future. This would give them more confidence in managing their own affairs and help to protect their environment. Indeed, it is morally binding on the local government managers to do everything possible to achieve the goals. (Odiong 2003). Every community is made up of both the individual as well as the house hold which shares the collective “we” feeling and thus, works cooperatively to attain self-fulfillment in the area of growth and development in all ramifications. As a corollary, it is a place where ideally comprehensive services of both socio-economic political and human developments can be provided by the people especially with the aid of either government or unofficial bodies. Because we find peace, joy, love, happiness etc in the community where we live, it therefore follows that all and sundry should participate in order to advance their social organization

In the light of the above, the principal objective of community development is for human, material and infrastructural development through effective mobilization of both human and material resources and by the active involvement of the rural populace. Out of the four principal objectives of the 1976 local government reform, in Nigeria, two were devoted to achieving the objectives of community development viz:

- i. To make appropriate services and initiatives by devolving or delegating them to the local representative bodies;
- ii. To mobilize human and material resources through the involvement of members of the community in their local development”

In line with the above, Olowu outlined the possible contributions of local government to the development process to include; political integration and nation building; Training in citizenship and political leadership; promotion of accountable governance; and provision of social and economic development. This study however, contends that the role of local government in the community development process stands in the triadic function of agent of mass mobilization. As accelerating force for massive economic growth and development and; c. Agent of socio-economic equity. These triadic functions are not only of a great essence but also a sine-quantum for sustainable community and national development. It is therefore safe to anchor every other function in the above trinity role of local government in both community and national development.

2.2.4.1 As Agent of Mass Mobilization

The strength of free people resides in the local Community. Local institutions are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they put it within the peoples reach; they teach people to appreciate its peaceful enjoyment and accustom to make use of it. Without local institutions, a nation may give itself a free government but it has not the spirit of liberty. Passing Passion, momentary interest or chance circumstances may give it external shape of independence, but the despotic tendencies which have been driven to the interior of the body social will sooner or later break Out on the surface.’

One of the central objectives of the 1976 local government reform in Nigeria was to mobilize human and material resources through the involvement of members of the public in their local development. Mobilization connotes an assembling or putting into action or operation. It means equipping the citizens for the onerous task of community development. The Dasuki report defined the term as “to increase their level of awareness or cognition and their perceptual abilities as well as render them more effective citizens who can apply their energies positively to help promote the development of their community and to participate in a general sense in the socio- political activities of those communities”

Local government as a grass root government is designed to transmit the pulse of other arms of government to the vast majority of the rural populace, and to equally mobilize them for effective national development. Being the government nearest to the rural people, it's the best institution for generating, motivating and encouraging mobilizations for self-help as well as including the much needed wider participation of the people especially in decision making. If a man is basically motivated by self-interest, local self-government provides the opportunity for schooling such a propensity and tempering it with the interest of others in the community, which result in reciprocal relationship of recurrent well-being. Such understanding of mutual self-interest leads the citizen to expand areas of cooperating with his neighbors, especially in the running of the community service (Olowu, 1988)

Edward (1979) noted that "the so called third world is a rural world where any meaningful discussion of rural development really means not only talking of over-all national development" but also because "it is the rural arrears that the problem of inequitable distribution of resources or a marked lack of financial strength and of grinding poverty in which the wretched members of the society stagnated and stare one in the face with brutal clarity". Aldous Huxley also noted that "the masses are utterly contemptible" they are incapable of abstract thinking and uninterested in any fact outside the circle of their immediate experience. Their behavior is determined, not by knowledge and reason, but by feelings and unconscious drives. It is in the light of the above that Deutch (1964) painted a picture of mobilization as large numbers of people moving away from a life of local isolation, the traditionalism, and political conservatism and moving into a different life or broader and deeper involvement in the vast complexities of modern life, including potential and actual involvement in mass politics.

The implication of the above is that effective mobilization and participation of the people in the development process of their area, as Ozor, noted would involve:

- a. Arousing or sensitizing the development spirit latent in the community leaders and followers towards participating in policy making, supervision and evaluation;
- b. Communal involvement in appropriate macro-economic and social policy formation;
- c. Inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration, co-operation and support for government at all levels in community development projects;
- d. Comprehensive apparatus and system of communication, community enlightenment, education and information management;
- e. long term vision of people-oriented development planning and;
- f. Appropriate safe guards for community asset custody, economic utilization of resources in puts and public accountability.'

As a corollary of the above, the benefits of effective community participation in the development process have been aptly summarized by Ozor to include; help to define for the local government, community needs and priorities much more accurately; reduce cost by mobilizing unused local, human and material resources; help people to appreciate, understand and sympathized with government at all levels, on their policies and actions; and contribute to political stability.

It therefore follows that local government, if it is truly local is better placed to at least, halt the deteriorating living standard of the rural areas of the country. This paper therefore argues that the local government is better placed than the other two higher tiers of government not only to stem the grim reality of the soaring tide of rural poverty, but also, be able to evoke the spirit of local participation. This can be effectively achieved through the use of local institution and grass roots strategies and in line with this, the Dasuki reports mandated that: every traditional ruler should, as the father of the people, throw the full weight of his traditional authority to accelerate the task of mass mobilization of the people for active participation in community development programme within their area of jurisdiction

It is therefore safe to conclude that the local government through the use of grass roots institution, are able to galvanize and mobilize the support of the local citizenry for effective participation in all programmes affecting them both now and latter. As Olowu noted, "by being given power and means to determine their own affairs. They are better able to realize corporate self-determination under prevailing political arrangement and are likely to be in a better position to appreciate the difficulties of governing". Maddick equally opined that "local authorities provide the opportunity for local people to participate in local decisions and local schemes within the general national policies and to act above all, as local centers of initiative and activity conducive to development". And as Huxley equally opined, "the driving force which has brought tremendous revolutions on this earth has never been a body of scientific teaching which has gained power over the masses, but always devoted which has inspired them and a kind of hysteria which has urged them into action.

2.2.4.2 As Accelerator for Massive Economic Growth and Development

Growth point must emerge from local government areas and provide the much needed push to activates and energize productive activities in rural Nigeria and thus, reverse the phenomenon of rural-urban drift. [Gen Babangida, National Day Address, 1st Oct., 1988). Economic growth and development should as a matter of fact, be among the priorities of every responsible third tier government in Nigeria. It is glaring that most local community in Nigeria lacks the much needed incentive to engage on any meaningful community development process.

Similarly, majority of their population not only dwells in abject penury but also, there is apparent low-per capital income which hinders economic growth. As a corollary, it will not permit them to generate enough resources for community development projects. The concept of social desirability implies that people would want to be perceived in the right direction, that is, to be seen to belong to the existing social order. Likewise, other rural areas in Nigeria would want to be perceived with success in terms of community development, just like their counterpart in the advanced countries of the World and thus, enjoying the advantages of civilization. Local government can therefore through effective mobilization, act as a catalyst for accelerating massive economic growth and development. In the rural areas, effective local governments can assist the rural people in organizing themselves to mobilize and manage their resources effectively, reduce waste associated with rural development projects due to poor and inaccurate information, feedback as well as non performing or corrupt bureaucracies. In addition, in both urban and rural center, local governments can assist in creation or attraction of economic enterprises and employment in their respective communities.

Little wonder why Uphoff and Esman, quote in Olowu, argued that "local organization are necessary, if not a sufficient condition for accelerated development which emphasized improvement in the production and welfare of the majority of rural people". Ozor equally notes that the grassroots should constitute the major basis of sustainable economic development program who wear the shoe, ought to know better where it pinches. No national economic development programme can succeed without the active co-operation of the local population who constitute the majority of the citizenry of this nation. For any economic, social or even physical development programme to be successful, it must not only be

people-oriented but also people-centered, and that means it must be planned to meet the needs of the majority of the citizens who are at the grassroots.

There is no doubt that it was on the realization of the strategic role of local government as a veritable tool for accelerating massive economic growth and development that led to the creation of such programmes like the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) designed to create and maintain rural roads for easy transportation of rural economic resources to the cities for their utilization; the establishment of Better life for Rural Women; the National Agricultural Development Authority (NALDA); both Community banks, and the Peoples banks were all established for the purpose. Local government is therefore better placed in the area of field administration to exploit both the initiative and aspiration of the rural populace in pursuance of a given developmental programme. General Ibrahim Babangida summed it that: In effect, given our commitment to accelerated development of rural areas, the local governments are not just there to pay salaries. They are there to ensure collective participation in governance, motivate physical and economic development, create the condition of employment opportunities, and provide social services which can improve the well-being of our people.

2.2.4.3 As an Agent of Social and Economic Justice in Community Development

Community development will be well-nigh difficult if not impossible in an environment characterized by abject penury and blatant economic and social inequality. The local government must therefore provide the equal enabling environment to enable the rural populace carry out their economic activities and thus, generate the sufficient resources to perform their civil responsibilities to the government. This ipso facto, and in line with John Locke's "social contract" theory, implies that if local government is aspiring to mobilize its citizens towards the attainment of a stated objective, it must provide the enabling environment such as security and equality in the distribution of common wealth to the citizens and at the same time, respond favourably and effectively to their other needs. As Okoli and Onah noted, "the elements to spur development must be found within the society... that all genuine social development or transformation have been initiated from within the society."

In many cases the beginning of such transition lies in the cross fertilization of ideas and experiences emanating from different societies". Olowu, affirmed the above when he noted that "successful economic projects sponsored, initiated or supported by local government could lead to a reduction in social inequality by raising the living standards of the poor and thereby enabling them to participate more effectively in decision making both at the local and central levels" there is no gainsaying the fact that part of the reason for the hitherto colossal failure of community development was due to economic and social injustice but that it is glaring that for the past three decades, the various government through public policy has failed to use the instrument of economic and social justice to adequately and functionally mobilize the entire citizenry towards a given developmental programme.

Maddick argued, "to achieve social change and general economic growth requires a spreading of efforts so that local communities and individuals can participate, to bring under ideal conditions, energy, enthusiasm and most important of all, local initiative to the working out of local development activities." Okoli and Onah summed it up as follow "communities must remain in charge of and take responsibility for their own development but must be open to changes that can improve their condition".

2.3 Challenges to Effective Local Government Participation in Community Development

Several obstacles combine to hinder the effective participation of local government in community development. These factors include general poverty, inadequate financial resources, the Nigeria factor, economic and social inequality. General poverty; the generality of the rural populace in Nigeria lives below the poverty line and thus, lives in hunger and starvation. If the popular dictum that "a hungry man is an angry man" is true, then such a man will be impervious to all gospel of mobilization towards community development. A man who cannot feed himself, or better still not feed well, may lack the capacity for rational thinking and can hardly perform his civil rights of paying tax as well as effectively participate in decision making e.t.c.

Inadequate financial resources; most of the local governments in the Nigeria are not financially buoyant to effectively participate in community development programme. The joint state-local government account has not helped matter as the latter is always at the caprice and whim of the former. There is glaring evidence of undue state interference in the financial resources of many local governments to the extent that the average local council finds it difficult to meet its recurrent expenditure not to talk more of executing capital projects. The guideline for 1976 Local Government Reform noted that the local government have, over the years, suffered from the continuous whittling down of their powers. The state governments have continued to encroach upon what would normally have been the exclusive preserves of local governments. Lack of adequate fund and appropriate institutions had continued to make local government ineffective and ineffectual.

The aforementioned above condition makes it difficult not only to mobilize but for such mobilization strategies like, payment of grants in aides, donation of trophies as well as liberal cash prizes to the advancing and participating community or even to create awareness and subsequently disseminate the information needed for community development programme.

Corruption and the Nigerian factor: "the average Nigerian is corrupt" (Achebe). The Trouble with Nigeria). And "keeping an average Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam." (Weekly Star, 15 may 1983). The above statements though crude, gave the true but astonishing reality of the Nigerian society. As a corollary of general poverty, corruption in some public organization is seen as a condition per-excellence and thus, the story of our public office is replete with that of corruption. The irregular payment of workers' salary has made corruption to deputes the normal pay package. It is gradually becoming a norm if not an ideology of most local government officials and thus, not an open secret anymore.

Local government in practice presently is nothing short of a venture where the triadic personality or in the words of Dialoke, "Triangular officers" of the Chairman who is the chief executive as well as the accounting officer of the local government, the Head of Personnel Management saddled with the responsibility of administration and the Treasurer who is in charge of the local government finance, all connive and divert the council's allocation to their personal purses. In fact, the monster has eaten deep into the fabrics of the nation at large that there are reported cases of examination malpractice among the primary and post primary school children, while wide spread cases of certificates forgery rock the so-called National Assembly {our legislators}, and other public officers. Again, the concept of Nigerian factor which permits the continuous acceptance of anomalous administrative behavior such as taking short cuts or any means to achieve ones aim, bribery, mediocrity, inefficiency e.t.c the implication

is that anything goes under this condition and nothing works well. The guiding philosophy here in the words of Machiavelli is that “the end justifies the means”. Therefore, community development may remain a mirage to the hearts and minds of the people under the above condition.

Local organizations are a necessary, if not a sufficient condition for accelerated development which emphasizes improvement in the productivity and welfare of the majority of the rural people. Before the advent of Colonialism with its attendant social change, various Nigerian communities have through self-help effort using such Grassroots Institutions as the Age grade, the Umu-Adas, the Town Unions, the Masquerade group [usually an enforcement agent], the Religious groups etc, to developed themselves. Grassroots Institutions are in no doubt a great force to be reckoned with especially when harnessed well and channeled in the right direction in the realization of community development objectives. They possessed a quantum of both human, material and to an extent, financial resources which yearns to be tapped and in the right direction for optimum result. It therefore behooves on the practitioners to systematically integrates and utilize these grassroots institutions as a way of attaining sustainable community development

Economic inequality entails, unequal distribution or access to the common wealth and thus leading to the emergence of “the have and they have not or the rich and poor. The above condition makes community development well-nigh difficult if not impossible. It is a common knowledge that-the gap between the rich and the poor affects their respective level of participation both in utterances and actions. There is usually low participation from the poor group due largely to their low financial strength and thus a constraint to effective community development.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the Basic Needs Approach propounded by Paul Streeten in 1981. The approach assumes that the rural population requires certain basic human facilities which are essentially social in character. Accordingly, it proposes that development plan should be directed specifically at the provision of essential amenities so as to benefit the poor in areas such as power supply, health facilities, sanitary conditions, access road, nutrition education, housing, water supply (Paul,2007).

As a concept, this approach seeks to relate development to the socio-cultural and economic realities of the rural populace. It seeks to identify practical socio-economic and cultural constraints to the welfare and development of the rural people and formulating/executing plans to eliminate these constraints. It is a more contemporary approach to rural development as manifested in government’s preference for it through the establishment of ADPS, RBRDAS, DFRRI. Through these various programmes, government has applied the principles embedded in this approach in its determination or efforts in realizing reasonable development in community areas on a continuing basis.

2.5 Summary of the Chapter

The chapter examined the roles of local government in community development in Nigeria. It examined the goals and objectives of community development, as agent of mass mobilization, as accelerator for massive economic growth and development as an agent of social and economic justice in community development as well as challenges to effective local government participation in community development.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

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

3.2 Sample and Population of the Study

Samples are normally used in studies that involve large populations. The reasons for using sample include; the desire to adequately manipulate the enormous population in order to avoid errors due to the calculation of large numbers and the desire to reduce the cost of producing the questionnaires that will cover the entire population. Odo (1992) defines a research sample “as a process of selecting a proportion of the population considered adequate to represent all existing characteristics within the target population and to any other population having similar characteristics with the target population”.

The term “population” has been defined by Odo (1992:40) as “the entire number of people, objects events and things that all have one or more characteristics of interest to a study”. The population of this study is drawn from Moro local government. However, the information given by Personnel of Administrative Department of the Moro shows that there are about 1000 staff under the local government council.

3.3 Sources of Data Collection

In the process of carrying out this study, the data used were collected from two major sources. These sources include the primary and secondary sources.

3.3.1. Primary Sources of Data

The primary sources of data used for the analysis of the study are those collected from the respondents through the designed questionnaire and interview. The questionnaires were administered by the researcher to Moro local government staff and people of the communities. This was done to elicit further information from them concerning the issue under study.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources of Data

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

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

The data gathered analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) is used for easy analysis. The researcher administered questionnaire directly to the respondents based on the sample size. The questionnaire is divided into two sections. The first section

captures bio-data information of the respondents while the second section captures information based on the concept of this research, using a 5-point Likert scale with “1= Strongly Disagree” and 5=Strongly Agree. This primary data analyzed through simple percentage and standard equation.

3.5 Research Problems

The research problems of this study are:

1. Lack of fund and sponsorship: research required much time and money while has to be provided by interested individuals or certain usually makes researcher or institution to apply for loan so as to make research work go on.
2. High rate of literate and lack of basic education: there is the tendency that research will have problem of convincing the literature to respond to his/her interview questionnaire.
3. Some organization finds it difficult to disclose data needed by researcher which leads to scarcity statistic.
4. Communication problem hinder interaction which does not encourage research to be carry out in some areas.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings based on the administered questionnaire. The analysis comprises the results of the demographic characteristics of the respondents from each sampled and the regression estimates of the variables. The totals of two hundred and forty questionnaires were distributed while two hundred and eighteen questionnaires were returned correctly. The survey cut across Moro Local Government Council. Statistics Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Statistical software was used for analysis through simple percentage and standard equation.

4.2 Brief History of Moro Local Government Area of Kwara State

Moro is a local government area in Kwara State, with headquarters in the town of Bode Sa'adu. Moro local government area falls within the northern senatorial district of Kwara State otherwise known as Kwara North Senatorial Zone alongside Edu, Baruten, Patigi and Kaiama local government areas. Moro local government area also forms a federal constituency alongside Patigi and Edu local government areas. Moro local

government area covers an area of 3,272 km². The local government area is bounded to the north-west by Kaiama local government area, to the north-east by Niger State and Edu and Ifelodun local government areas, to the south-east by Ilorin East and Ilorin West local government areas, to the south-west by Asa local government area, and to the west by Oyo State. The Moro local government council is in charge of public administration in Moro.

The council is led by a chairman who is the executive head of the local government. The Moro legislative council make laws governing Moro local government area. It consists of 17 Councillors representing the 17 wards of the local government area. There are 17 wards in Moro local government area of Kwara State. The 17 wards in Moro local government area are: Abati/Alara, Ajanaku, Arobadi, Babadudu, Bode Saadu, Ejidongari, Jebba, Lanwa, Logun/Jehunkunnu, Maletе/Gbugudu, Megida, Okemi, Okutala, Oloru, Pakunmo, Shao and Womi/Ayaki. The widely disputed result of the 2006 national population census put the population of Moro local government area at 108,715, with 54,860 males and 53,855 females.

4.3 Data Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Data of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	144	66.1
Female	74	33.9
Total	218	100
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	54	24.8
Married	164	75.2
Total	218	100
Age	Frequency	Percent
18-30	56	25.7
31-40	60	27.5
41 and above	102	46.8
Total	218	100
Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Civil Servant	164	75.2
Farmer	9	4.1
Artisan	28	12.8
Others	17	7.8
Total	218	100
Qualification	Frequency	Percent

Primary/S.S.C.E/Equivalent	40	18.3
NCE/ND/DIPLOMA	71	32.6
BA/BSC/HND	96	44
MBA/MSC/PHD	11	5
Total	218	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

The table presents the respondents' profile. These include sex, marital status, age, and occupation, length of service, qualification and staff category. A total of 218 of respondents completed the questionnaire. The respondents consisted of 144 (66.1%) male and female 74 (33.9%) responses to the survey. That shows that the majority of the respondents were male. The majority of the respondents are married. The distributions of respondents' age are categorized into three. Respondents from 41 and above years old are the majority, 102 (46.8%). The majority of the respondents are civil servants, 162 (75.2) and 9years and above 104 (47.7%) are the majority. The majority of the respondents are BA/MSc/HND holders, 96 (44.0%) and the majority of the respondents are senior staff, 86 (39.4).

Table 2: Impact of Local Government Administration on Community Development in Moro Local Government

Items	Opinion	Percent	Remark
Moro local government ensures the availability of tap water to Asa populace.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	73	33.5	
Undecided	74	33.9	
Agree	21	9.6	
Strongly Agree	39	17.9	Disagree
	11	5	
Total	218	100	
Moro local government provides borehole and well water for rural dwellers.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	53	24.3	
Undecided	38	17.4	
Agree	28	12.8	Agree
Strongly Agree	76	34.9	

Total	23	10.6	
	218	100	
Grading and construction of roads is executed on quarterly basis by Moro local government council.			
Strongly Disagree	60	27.5	
Disagree	91	41.7	
Undecided	15	6.9	
Agree	49	22.5	Disagree
Strongly Agree	3	1.4	
Total	218	100	
Poor basic amenities have led to loss of lives.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	7	3.2	
Undecided	14	6.4	
Agree	24	11	Agree
Strongly Agree	101	46.3	
Total	72	33	
	218	100	
Moro local government has built hospital.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	87	39.9	
Undecided	58	26.6	
Agree	18	8.3	Strongly Disagree
Strongly Agree	41	18.8	
Total	14	6.4	
	218	100	

Moro local government builds modern market.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	62	28.4	
Undecided	66	30.3	
Agree	18	8.3	Disagree
Strongly Agree	56	25.7	
Total	16	7.3	
	218	100	
Moro is ahead of other local governments in Kwara State in the provision of basic social amenities.			
Strongly Disagree	92	42.2	
Disagree	67	30.7	
Undecided	15	6.9	Strongly Disagree
Agree	28	12.8	
Strongly Agree	16	7.3	
Total	218	100	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

The study reveals that majority disagreed that Moro local government council ensures tap water available to populace. The majority of the respondents agreed that administration of Moro local government council supports availability of borehole and well water. From the findings, majority of the respondents disagreed that grading and construction of roads is executed quarterly or yearly basis by the council. The study revealed that the majority of the respondent agreed that poor basic amenities have led to loss of lives while the majority strongly disagreed that Moro local government builds hospitals. It is also discovered that majority of the respondents disagreed that Moro local government has facilitated modern market while the majority strongly disagreed that Moro local government establishes standard schools and maintenance of old schools. Also, majority of the respondent strongly disagree that Moro is ahead of other local governments in Kwara State in the provision of basic social amenities.

Table 3: Challenges of Local Government Administration and Community Development in Moro

Items	Opinion	Percent	Remark
Failure of leadership at local level negatively affects community development in Moro.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	16	7.3	
Undecided			

Agree	31	14.2	Agree
Strongly Agree	29	13.3	
Total	90	41.3	
	52	23.9	
	218	100	
Community development is not adequate in Moro as a result of corruption.			Agree
Strongly Disagree	31	14.2	
Disagree	29	13.3	
Undecided	18	8.3	
Agree	99	45.4	
Strongly Agree	41	18.8	
Total	218	100	
There is lack of commitment and dishonest on the part of government officials.			Agree
Strongly Disagree	16	7.3	
Disagree	37	17.0	
Undecided	24	11.0	
Agree	98	45.0	
Strongly Agree	43	19.7	
Total	218	100	
Embezzlement and diversion of projects by politicians affect community development.			Agree
Strongly Disagree	29	13.3	
Disagree	37	17.0	
Undecided	19	8.7	
Agree	93	42.7	
Strongly Agree	40	18.3	
Total	218	100	

Local government election under the control of State Government as provided by the Constitution hinder development at grass root.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	15	6.9	
Undecided	29	13.3	
Agree	28	12.8	Agree
Strongly Agree	91	41.7	
Total	55	25.2	
	218	100	
Misuse of state power over State Joint Account affects Moro local government to discharge its responsibilities as regard to provision of basic amenities.			
Strongly Disagree			
Disagree	14	6.4	
Undecided	6	2.8	
Agree	8	3.7	
Strongly Agree	89	40.8	Strongly Agree
Total	101	46.3	
	218	100	

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2025

The finding shows that the majority of the respondent agreed that failure of leadership at local level negatively affects community development in Moro. The majority of the respondents agreed that community development is not adequate in Moro as a result of corruption. The majority of the respondents also agreed that there is lack of commitment and dishonesty on the part of local government officials. The majority of the respondents agreed that embezzlement and diversion of projects by local government officials hinder development in Moro. The majority of the respondents agreed that local government election under the control of State Government as provided by the Constitution hinder development at grass root. The majority of the respondents agreed that misuse of state power over State Joint Account affects Moro local government to discharge its responsibilities as regard to provision of basic amenities.

4.4 Summary of the Chapter

This study evaluated the roles of local government in the process of community development in Nigeria and Moro in specific. It identified Local Government as the nearest government to the people and thus, a channel through which the community feels the pulse of other higher levels of government. To this effect, the paper contends that local government is the hub for social, political and economic mobilization and galvanization of the citizens for effective participation in the community and national development. Far from providing community with supports such as funds technical, material and financial support for the community development practice. Local Government also undertakes some developmental services in the community even without the financial/technical assistance of the said community. However, the study identified several challenges that militate against these roles and they include: official corruption, the Nigerian factor, poor revenue generation, political instability, social injustice and economic inequality and general poverty among the vast majority of the populace amongst others.

Finally, the study proffered some functional solution to the challenges and they include: strengthening and use of grassroots institution, establishing and adhering strictly to accountability procedure to guard against corruption and other unwanted behaviour, diversification of revenue generation, attitudinal change through value re-orientation and effective utilization of grass roots communication procedure to secure the active

participation of the community amongst others. After all, community development is all about the development of the community through active involvement of the indigenes.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study examined the roles and challenges of local government on community development in Moro local government of Kwara State. Statistics Package for Social Science was used for easy analysis. The study revealed that Moro local government is confronted with several problems which include corruption on the part of local government officials, failure of leadership. It has become obvious that corruption is the major issue in the developmental study of the local government councils in Moro local government area of Kwara State, Nigeria.

5.2 Conclusion

This study examined the roles of local government in community development as challenges of community development in Moro local government of Kwara State. The study revealed that Moro local government is confronted with several problems which include corruption on the part of local government officials, failure of leadership. It has become obvious that corruption is the major issue in the developmental study of the local government councils in Moro local government of Kwara State, Nigeria. The study concluded that community development is largely undermined in Moro local government.

5.3 Recommendations

Moro local government should be more people-centred in approach, such that necessary collaboration or partnership with communities in its domain can facilitate the process of community development. Both government and non-governmental programmes on development should be implemented and executed in Moro. Individual should change his or her attitude positively through value re-orientation of both the leaders and the led. Local governments should strive to raise and maintain revenue that would enable her deliver projects and services that guarantee quality living to the grassroots. Local government should not be under the financial control of State government. The current perception of government work and property as no man's business must be discouraged at all cost and more drastic punishment should be given to the offenders. The current anti-graft agencies such as the EFCC, ICPC etc. are all moribund and like a toothless bulldog, they can only bark but not bite.

There should be periodic monitoring of projects. Government should ensure equitable distribution or re-distribution of common wealth through the instrument of distributive and regulatory public policy. People should be enlightened and empowered. There should be a serious drive towards poverty reduction and inequality through people-oriented policies and programmes which would address the basic necessities of life. The political appointees and workers in Moro must imbibe the culture of leadership by example anchored on selfless service to the people with total commitment and sacrifice. Control measure should be put in place to check possible frauds and embezzlement. Political consideration in the allocation of contracts should be discouraged in Moro local government. There is therefore the need for an overhauling of the system in order to produce a functional and effective control mechanism. Effective and efficient dissemination of information and the use of propaganda to sensitize and arouse the interest of the rural masses in community developments should be encouraged.

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