

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Every local jurisdiction has distinct economic, social, and physical characteristics, along with historical traditions that are best understood by its residents. Thus, Local Government Areas (LGAs) are established to provide services that Federal and State Governments cannot easily manage due to their distance from local communities (Uhunmwangho and Epelle, 2008). True development must originate from within, driven by the will and desires of the people. The creation of local governments worldwide is crucial for facilitating grassroots development. The importance of local government lies in its ability to foster a sense of belonging, safety, and satisfaction among its citizens. Governments, regimes, and political systems have consistently pursued this objective, making local government essential for national administrative development and political efficacy. Regardless of the form of government, local government is considered vital for national integration, administration, and development.

In Nigeria's diverse socio-political context, with its multitude of cultures, languages, and needs, the role of local government in promoting national consciousness, unity, and preserving unique diversities is crucial. Local government provides a platform for interaction between the government and the people, allowing for the swift resolution of issues. It is seen as a solution to the various problems arising from cultural diversity. Despite its importance, local government faces several challenges, including undue political interference from higher levels of government, corruption, embezzlement, and a lack of well-trained and qualified personnel.

The constitutional mandates of local governments include making recommendations to a State Commission on Economic Planning regarding the economic development of the state, particularly as it affects local areas. Local governments are also responsible for naming roads and streets, maintaining public conveniences, sewage and refuse disposal, registering births, deaths, and marriages, and assessing houses for levying rates as prescribed by the State House of Assembly (Fourth Schedule of the 1999 Constitution). Additionally, they are tasked with licensing bicycles, non-mechanically propelled trucks, canoes, wheelbarrows, and carts; establishing and regulating slaughterhouses, markets, motor parks, and public conveniences; and maintaining roads, street lighting, drains, and public highways (Amin, 2018).

Nnoli (1981) and Rodney (1972) argue that people have the capacity to improve their living conditions independently, suggesting a continuous process of development. Local government, a semi-autonomous territorial unit created by the constitution or state laws, undertakes functions within a specified area. Democracy itself developed from local government initiatives, which is why these governments have elected or appointed executive, legislative, and judicial arms. In Nigeria, local government brings governance closer to the people. The definition provided by the Nigerian Federal Government emphasizes representative councils with substantial control over local affairs, service provision, and project implementation, complementing State and Federal activities. It also highlights the need for local government autonomy in staff, institutional, and financial matters (Nigeria, 1976). Notably, Nigeria, along with Brazil (Erero, 1998), has elevated LGAs to a third tier of government, limiting State control over local governments.

Rural development involves changes in social, economic, and structural relationships and processes. It encompasses not only economic growth but also equitable distribution of socio-economic benefits. This perspective includes increased production, job opportunities, addressing poverty, disease, and ignorance, generating new employment, equitable income distribution between rural and urban areas, improving health, nutrition, housing, and providing incentives and better prices. It also emphasizes participation in decision-making and fundamental education for all (Olley, 2011). Thus, rural development is a process of improving the living conditions of rural populations through various changes. It includes policies aimed at encouraging production, enhancing the wellbeing of the rural majority, and ensuring adequate production for rural development. Against this background, this paper investigates the impact of local government on rural development in the Isin Local Government Area of Kwara State.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The need to catalyze balanced development, maximize citizens' participation, and arouse government response necessitates the creation of the local government. The local government serves as a form of political and administrative structure facilitating decentralization, national integration, efficiency in governance, and a sense of belonging at the grassroots. The local government is a unit of administration all over the world (Agagu, 2004). Local government has been created essentially to complement the efforts of the states and national government in the task of rural development. Nevertheless, abject poverty and underdevelopment remains a common feature in these rural communities.

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, Isin 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). However, studies on the impact of local government administration on rural development in Isin local government area, Kwara state is significant. This study therefore intends to fill the gap.

1.3 Objectives of Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the impact of local government on rural development in Isin local government area of Kwara State. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. ascertain whether Isin local government has contributed substantially to rural development;

- ii. find out if inadequacy of skilled workers affects the ability of Isin local government council in carrying out rural development programme;
- iii. verify whether inadequate financing by both state and federal governments; and hinders the council in carrying out developmental programmes.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. Has Isin local government area contributed substantially to rural development?
- ii. Does inadequacy of skilled workers affect the ability Isin local government council in carrying out rural development programme?
- iii. Does inadequate financing of the local government by the state and federal government affect the ability of Isin local government council to contribute to rural development?

1.5 Hypothesis

In the light of the research question and of related literature, the following hypothesis will be tested:

- H₁:** Isin local council has not contributed substantially to rural development in the local government area.
- H₂:** The inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of Isin local government council in carrying out rural development programmes.
- H₃:** Inadequate funding by both the Kwara State and the Federal Governments hinders Isin Local Government council's ability to carrying out developmental programmes.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will help to know the historical background of Isin 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.

1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The geographical scope of the work is Isin Local Government Area and the subject scope focuses on how the local government and rural development from 1999 to 2022. The reason for the timeline of this work is to cover the Fourth Republic.

The limitations to the study include time and financial constraints, non-availability of some documents that are relevant to this research work. The sample size of the respondents was small compare to the 2006 population census of Isin local government.

1.8 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.

1.9 Definition of Terms

- i. **Grassroots/Rural development:** The term grassroots development as used in this study refers to the act or process of developing and empowering the well-being of the vast majority of the rural dwellers through the provision of basic social and economic infrastructures. Hence, it is a development from below.
- ii. **Rural Dwellers:** Means the people living in the remote areas of a country and lack basic infrastructure like good road network, pipe borne water, electricity, good health facility etc. The term refers to the ordinary people who are far from political decision making process at the centre. These groups include small scale farmers, tenants, etc who seek livelihood in the rural areas.
- iii. **Democracy:** This refers to the government of the people by the people and for the people. It implies that ultimate authority of government is vested in the common people so that the public policy is made to conform to the will of the people and to serve the interests of the people.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews various works of Scholars on local government administration and rural development. The chapter consists of three sections, namely; conceptual and empirical reviews and the theoretical framework.

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.

According to Agbakoba (2004), a local government is a political and administrative unit that is empowered by law to administer a specified locality. It involves philosophical commitment to the idea of community participation in government at grassroots level. There is general assumption among scholars and practitioners, that local government are not only established as representative organ but also as a channel through which goods and services are delivered to the people within the framework of laws establishing them.

2.2.2 Rural Development

Maboguje (1980) opines that rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low-income people living in the rural area on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this. The Asbridge Conference on Social Development emphasizes that rural development should be designed to promote better living for all in the whole community with the active participation and initiative of the community. According to Mishra and Sharma (1979), rural development is not merely development of rural areas but also the development of quality of life of the rural masses into self-reliant and self-sustaining modern communities, so that each component of rural lives changes in a desired direction.

Chambers (1983) mentions that the target group in rural development should include poor man, women and children, poorest of the poor amongst the small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless labourers. He has critically analyzed and stated that the poorest should be first put in order to narrow down the gap between the rich and the poor. Singh (1986) pointed out that development is not only an increase in income and infrastructure facilities but it also brings about changes in the attitude of the people. Development is not only implementing government package programmes but it means to develop and to obtain a desirable change of the rural people.

Mabogunje, (1992) writes on "leading issues in Nigerian Rural Development" accused successive Nigerian government at being previous regimes, rather than developing the rural areas. He content that this is the general pattern all over the third world countries. Mabogunje, remarked that many strategies such as "authoritarian hand out" from the administration which prescribed the facilities suitable for the rural areas and two, the so-called development from below have been tried in the past, in the attempt to solve rural poverty in Nigeria. These strategies have however not proved successful; he looks at rural development problem such as lack of co-ordinated community development programmes, manpower problems of infrastructure, problem of relevant rural education. He suggested solutions to these problems, which include clear understanding of the concept community development, an integrated development programmes, provision of infrastructure, relevance at rural education to the peculiar need and aspiration of the rural areas.

Local government and rural development in Nigeria, Olowo, et al., and (1991) describes government approach to rural development as a more sham. According to him, government has succeeded in imposing development programme on the rural masses, such programme he argues, only benefited a few rich and powerful urban elites. He calls for a model of rural development, which involves the genuine participation of the rural people. Such he continues will be relatively independent of centralized urban-oriented bureaucratic machines. Nwaka, (1999) on his part argued that government imposition of rural development programme on the communities have been Cog in the wheel of rural development. As he put it,

government have often set community development; priorities without the participation of the target or relevant communities. He suggests that since government, communities are the engines of growth; government should play down its excessive control in betting out development goals and priorities for local communities.

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.

Nwaka (1999) argues that government imposition of rural development programme on the communities have been cog in the wheel of rural development. As he put it, government have often set community development; priorities without the participation of the target or relevant communities. He suggests that since government, communities are the engines of growth; government should play down its excessive control in betting out development goals and priorities for local communities. Okoli, (2000) contends that the British colonialists in Nigeria hatched community development ideology in order to under develop the people through his negative manipulation strategy. He regrets that his strategy has continued to be employed by indigenous rulers in the post-colonial state. He further contends that this strategy predicated upon the colonial policy of economic exploitation of the local area in an instrument used to sustain the self-interest of the ruling classes while the rural communities suffer under poor, hash and stagnated conditions.

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

Lawal, (2008) community development is not new in Nigeria, that what is actually new nowadays in community development are techniques and methods through which new pattern of leadership emerges from the rank and file. Dare, (1989) in his own contribution argues that though local government is a veritable vehicle for community development, most local government have not made appreciate impact in this direction. He attributes the problem to the myriad of functions allocated to local government without commensurate financial backing. According to Sehinde, (2008) community development is a process of education by which people of all ages and interest in the community, learn to share their thoughts, their ideas, the participation, their joys and their sorrows and in a large measure to mold and shape the communal destiny for themselves. It is a process of self-discovery by the while the people of a community learn to identify and solve their community problems.

A firm grasp at their beliefs and value system will throw light on what the community accepts as good and bad, as right or wrong. In turn, changes achieved by community effort can influence the beliefs and value system of a community. It is necessary to stimulate the self-help spirit of the people by mobilizing them for communal efforts, which should be sustained with the assistance of the government. Blue Print for rural development, argues that for effective implementation of strategies for community development the town and community unions, age grades, etc should be linked with government. This idea he said is to involve the community people fully through their union, age grades and other similar policies that are designed to improve their economic, social, political and cultural development. He stated that this would enable them to make positive contributions to both rural and national development. The community union and age grade in every community have usually served as point of articulation and fully aware of the needs of the people. However, if they are fully integrated into the planning stage of development project, a lot will be achieved.

Communal effort has not been a recent phenomenon. It dates back to the time of primitive communalism when people searched for their living communally. In the early state of man, he always sought ways of conquering nature. Bryne (1983) argues that the concept of community development is not new, that rather it is an old ideology. The reality in Bentham's assertion that community development is a man in the society can be sustained by the fact that communities throughout history constructed and maintained their roads, bridges, square, sunk their well for good drinking water supply, and constructed their markets, village churches and village halls by community efforts.

Ogunna (1980) attributed the low performance of local government to the following factors; inadequate revenue, low executive capacity, poor and inadequate working materials, incompetence and ineptitude of existing staff and excessive control by the state government which result in delays and red-tapism. The solution, he suggested, lies in the review of the local government system particularly in areas of financial relationship with the state government and personnel. This control of local government was made clear in the implementation, guideline on the application of the civil service. Okunade, (1988):expressing his own idea on reform in the local government service. He states that the spread of counties has provided the awareness among rural dwellers, and has provided the existence for a concept of the process of community development and of project which have been set in motion since the United National Organization development its concepts since thirty years ago. Community development draw greater inspiration from the desire for a change and in the ability of man to learn and charge through the voluntary method, (that is, free from coercion) and through the participation of individuals and groups in the development process for the achievement of some definite goals.

Okoli, (2000) in his book contends that the British colonialists in Nigeria hatched community development ideology in order to under develop the people through his negative manipulation strategy. He regrets that his strategy has continued to be employed by indigenous rulers in the post-colonial state. He further contends that this strategy predicated upon the colonial policy of economic exploitation of the local area in an instrument used to sustain the self-interest of the ruling classes while the rural communities suffer under poor, harsh and stagnated conditions. Aborisade (1988) in his book highlighted 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.

Finally, from the extensive review of literature, it is obvious that scholars like Akpan, (1982), Olisa (1992) and Olowu (1988) regretted that rural development activities and programmes of the past decades of national independence have not transformed the country's rural areas in the modern, well supplied contended that prosperous population envisaged are the beginning of national sovereignty. They concluded that in terms at the number of programmes identification pursued, rural development in Nigeria has made little transformatory impact. They cite basic social services, public utilities and essential infrastructure as still being woefully inadequate in almost all corners of the country.

2.2.6 Local Government Administration and Rural Development

The local government, being the government nearest to the rural populace, is one of the best institutions for generating motivation and encouraging mobilization for self-help, as well as inducing the much needed wider participation of the local population in the decision-making process at the local level (Raji and Amin, 2017). It is estimated that rural local governments account for about 80 percent of the entire Nigeria population, and it is plausible to argue as pundits do, that the so-called third world is a rural world where any meaningful discussion of rural development really means not only talking of overall national development, but also because it is in the rural areas that the problem of inequitable distribution of resources or a marked lack of purchasing power and of grinding poverty in which the wretched members of society stagnate and stare one in the face with brutal clarity (Jide, 2010). Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the people in the rural areas. The main concern in rural development is supposed to be modernization, isolation to integration with the national economy for equitable and balanced development of the nation. It is against the backdrop of the above definition of rural development that we shall that we shall try to investigate the extent local government council has been able to develop the rural areas.

To guarantee the satisfaction of basic social needs, therefore, local responsibility and co-operation must be encouraged and that can best be developed through the participation of the local citizenry, not only in the affairs of their local government, but also in their own community affairs (World Bank, 1975). It is important to observe that the existence of the third tier system of government in Nigeria should at least, halt the deteriorating living conditions in the rural areas of this country. An effective local government will be better disposed than the state or federal governments not only to stem the grim reality of the "rising tide of rural poverty", but also better placed to evoke the spirit of "local co-operation", thereby being able to galvanize and mobilize the support of local citizenry in participating in all the programmes that may affect them (Jide, 2010).

2.2.7 Challenges of Rural Development

Some of the rural development programmes are designed to be genuine without a clearly defined source of funding eg cases of the Housing for ALL, Health for ALL, Universal Basic Education (UBE) and so on. They are often initiated before sourcing for funds from philanthropists and international donors which may never come. The armed conflicts ranging from ethnic, religious and communal issues which do not provide enabling environment for the implementation of sustainable development programmes in such areas. For instance, a situation where foreigners and government workers in some coastal rural areas are target of kidnappers demanding ransom is obviously not conducive for development work. Also, corruption poses a very big threat to rural development. There is lack of integrity, accountability and transparency on the part of people who are supposed to implement development projects in the rural areas. Adedire (2014) as cited in Nwakoby (2007) laments that public funds made for rural projects are stashed away in bank vaults in Europe and America while an overwhelming proportion of the population live in abject poverty.

Equally, lack of political-will and commitment, policy instability and insufficient involvement of the intended beneficiaries of the programmes, hence according to Chiloikwu (2006), most of them died with the government that initiated them. For example, development programmes like Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, Free and Compulsory Primary Education, Low cost Housing Schemes which impact positively on the rural dwellers could not be sustained. Umehali and Akubailo (2006) list such challenges like: Vicious cycle of poverty, poor infrastructure, high population density, high level of illiteracy, low social interaction and local politics and rural - urban migration. Rural dwellers have been considered as the thermometer through which one determines the impact of rural development. Adedire (2014) as cited in Obot (1989) justifies that the development policies geared towards the improvement of the rural dwellers remained almost a house - hold word without corresponding success especially at the implementation states.

Furthermore, the inadequacy of skilled workers to implement various developmental programmes can be solved by investing in human beings, Adedire (2014) as cited in Obada (2002) believes that the most permanent and deepest way to ensure ideal development in the rural areas is to invest in human beings which policies like National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Universal Basic Education (UBE), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) etc are meant to do. Also, a viable system of development at local government level must provide political leadership and guidance to plan and execute various programmes and policies. But this must be done without curbing local initiative and participation. Indeed, Bureaucrats and Technocrats are needed to assist and advise the local people. If these officials are to appear as masters of the people it will be difficult to change their mentality and attitude. The only way to integrate themselves with the local people is to appear as genuine servants of the people and to place themselves under the political authority of the locally recognized leaders. Also, the concern for corruption in Nigeria society must be removed in the conduct of local government.

Inadequate finance is one of the perennial problems which has not only defied all past attempts at permanent solution, but also has a tendency for evoking high emotions on the part of all concerned (each time it is brought forth for discussion or analysis) is the issue of equitable revenue allocation in Nigeria. It is an issue which has been politicized by successive administrations in Nigeria both Military and civilian regimes. Indeed, in virtually all country in which the constitution shares power between the central and regional or state governments and, for each level to be “within a sphere co-ordinate and independent” (Wheare 1963) enough resources need be allocated to each tier to justify their existence. Perhaps, more important at this juncture is a consideration of the adequacy of the total revenue profile of LGs, from all sources, for their operations. In the works of Ikelegbe, (2005) and Aghayere, (2008) they are of the view that local governments obtain adequate revenue for their operations.

Ikelegbe (2005), puts it, as ‘tremendous strengthening of local government funding, structuring, autonomy and democratization. Adequate finance is an indispensable tool for local government administration and the execution of project for which it was not up. According to Orewa (1968) the *raison d’être* of local authority is to collect its revenue efficiently and to use such revenue to provide many social service as possible for its tax payers while at the same time maintaining a reasonable amount reserve tide it over any period of financial stringency. Hence, the ability of local authorities to generate revenue to manage it properly. Blau and Scout as a cited by Mukoro, (2001) in their local government have noted that they do not exist but in communities and societies and have roots in large social system.

From the foregoing, the basic environment of a local in Nigeria with regard to revenue generation can be identified based on the provision at chapter (vi) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria which deals with public revenue and the fourth schedule there provides functions of a local government council section 162 (of chapter (vi) such section 3,5,6,7 and 8) provide that “Any amount standing to the credit of the federation account and shall be distributed among the federal and state government council in such state on such terms and in manner as may be presided by the National Assembly.

Okoli (1998), states that despite the elaborate provision made in both decree No. 36 of 1998 and 1999 constitution for the financial autonomy of the local government doubt still remains as to the financial relationships among the three tier of government for one thing the direct funding of the local government which has been jettisoned by the ambiguities in the provision of 1999 constitution as far as finance of the local government are concerned. The financial crisis of most local government in developing counties is worsened by the fact that they are located in the rural areas. As a result of rural poverty, they are unable to generate enough internal revenue. They, therefore, rely mainly on statutory allocation from the federal government which is usually inadequate for any meaningful development activity. As aptly stated in the local government. Adedeji (2000) asserts that the success or failure and the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of local government depends on the financial resources available to the individual’s local authorities and the way the resources are utilized indeed the problem associated with inadequacy of funding continue to remain quite high among factors most frequently of local government to effectively perform their statutorily developed function.

Akpan, (1965) argued that the bottom line in judging the effectiveness of local government is the amount of funds at their disposal. He notes that “the success of a local authority is often measured in terms of its ability to provide services to the public. These services cost money”, which the local government do not have sufficiency. Ogbonnia (2004) say’s that other sources of local government revenue depend on the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the council. He further explains that, there are several ways the council can generate funds but the major problems lie in the ability of the chairman to look inwards to create means of generating funds for the council. The inadequacies of operational and capital funds constitute a set-back on local government implementation of regular services and investment programmes. Consequently, most local government can only pay worker salaries and take care of recruitment expenditure. In the case of Nigeria, the financial crisis in the local government has been worsened by the failure of the Federal Government to recognize the new local government created by some states. The state governors new use part of statutory allocations meant for the newly created ones, which in Enugu referred to as development centres (Ezeani, 2004).

Adewumi (198), Nkala (1985), Onah (1995) and Nkala (1985), noted that at the inception of democratic local government system in the former Eastern region of Nigeria in 1950, early recruits into the local government service were mainly “Sons of the soil”. Orewa and Adewumi (1983) rightly stated that recruitment based on patronage, have created problems of redundancy in local governments where stern measures like termination of appointment and suspension of staff are rarely contemplated. There is no doubt that the effectiveness of any organization to a large extent depend on the calibre of its staff. The local government does not have enough graduates employed in its services. The people who work in the local government are employed based on favouritism and not on merit. Most of the staffs or the council don’t know what is expected of them as local government staff. Most of them did not go beyond primary school, and therefore cannot perform well. They don’t even know the function of the department they found themselves let alone the work they expected to perform, and this contributes in affecting the rural development.

Staff training and development is another important aspect that has been neglected in local councils. According to Blum and Mayor (1976), effective training programmes can result in increased production, reduced labour turnover, and greater employee satisfaction. The people who work in the community development department because of lack of skills for the nature of their job use wrong approach or measure in appealing to the communities to contribute and take part in community development. According to Onah (1995), the inability to provide management training in areas of operations other than finance and general administration such as engineers, architects, accountant, doctors, nurses, agriculture extension workers etc continues to militate against effective performance in most local governments in Nigeria. In an effort to address this quandary of manpower in terms of (skilled manpower like Engineers and Doctors and Administrators) in local government system in Nigeria, the federal military government in 1979 introduced three university-based Department of Public Administration and local government.

Above all, provision of education, health and other social services must be the priority of the local government authorities to create new man with attitude prepared to challenge oppression and exploitation. The problem of lack of due consultation and non-involvement of local dwellers by the local government before embarking on developmental programmes can be eliminated if the local government can run an open administration that will encourage the local communities to express their opinions on issues that affect them, thereby allowing local government to implement programmes that are demanded by the people. Thus, this will prevent misplacement of priorities and wastage of resources (Adedire, 2014).

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The theory which informs our discussion of local government and rural development, a study of Isinlocal government council is the general systems theory. The scholar most associated with this theory is Easton (1965) “sees the political system as a set of interrelated and reciprocally regulated patterns of actions and orientation, pattern that cluster together in equilibrium and that have certain needs of maintenance

and survival. It is a phenomenon of whatever type, including physical, biological, social, political, etc., which is an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it from the environment (supra system) in which it is located and with which it interacts, processing the inputs from it into outputs for it. The general systems theory seeks to argue that every system, including political system, has subsystems which make up the entire system. They are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. Where this is the case, there is said to be homeostasis (stability) in the political system. On the other hand, instability reigns in the political system where the contrary is the case and the subsystems and entire system are also unable to function optimally. Input and output analysis of a political system is very important. A political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour, etc.) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations.

2.4.1 Application of the Theory

The systems analysis to the local government system, the local government system in the country constitutes the sub-system. They must be well handled in terms of being fed with adequate inputs, so that they can contribute appropriately to the optimality of the whole (country) political system, as well as its homeostasis. If the reverse is the case, that is, if the local government system do not have the required inputs to operate on. Apter (1963) posits that the political system has two elements viz input (made up of demand support) and output (made up of authoritative decisions). By input, he meant those factors which emanated from the environment and go into decision making. They are those demands that come out from the society. Outputs are results that emanates from the demand and support made at the level of input. Isinlocal government council is a system which carries out these functions by receiving inputs from the people and converting it into output. The citizens are involved in such demands above. This demand on the system is in inform of appeal to the council authority to provide some basic infrastructure like good road network, pipe borne water, health facilities, ultra-modern markets etc.

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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 Population and Sample Size of the Study

The Population of this study is drawn from Isin local government. The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 137,300. For this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling technique in selecting the respondents. From a total of 137,300 populations for the local government, according to the 2006 National Census figure, the researcher adopted a sample size of 150. This is less than 5% of the entire population of the local government. This choice is informed by Nwana (1981) submission as cited in Okoro (2001) that if the population is a few hundreds, a 40% or more sample will do; if many hundreds, a 20% sample will do; if a few thousands, a 10% sample will do and if several thousands, a 5% or less sample will do. The population of this study runs into several thousands and that is why a less than 5% sample is considered appropriate.

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 Isin 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. This primary data analyzed through simple percentage. 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 nominal method.

CHAPTER FOUR DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a detailed analysis and interpretation of the data obtained through questionnaires administered on the assessment of the role of local government in rural development using Isin Local Government Council of Kwara State as a study area.

4.2 Brief History of Isin Local Government Area of Kwara State

Isin Local Government Area of Kwara State was created from the old Irepodun Local Government Area in 1996 with the headquarters at Owu-Isin. It has an area of 633 km² and a population of 59,738 at the 2006 census. Isin comprises several towns and communities including Isanlu Isin, Ijara isin, Owu isin, Iwo, Oke-Aba, Oke-Onigbin, Alla, Edidi, Odo-Eku, Oba, Iji, Pamo, Oponda, Igbesi, Eleyin, Kudu-Owode etc. To the north of Isin are Igbajaland, Oraland and Ireland; to the west are Ajassee Ipo and Oro; to the east are Oro-Ago and Olla and Osi in Ekiti LG; while to the south are Apaland, Arandun and Omu-Aran. The Isin people are stock of the Igbomina. Although the Yoruba language is spoken in Isin, the dialect concurs with major Igbomina. They also migrated from Ife and Oyo. However, there are some Isin Towns whose founders migrated from outside these two states. Owu-Isin also migrated from Osun State and the first settlement to have a kingdom in Yorubaland.

Investigations unto how the area came to be called "Isin" have been carried out because for many villages with diverse origin as Isin villages to bear the all binding name "Isin", tells a lot of the importance of the name. Various, different sources have different versions of its derivation. Firstly, it is held that, the name was coined from "Igi Isin" (an akeapple tree). Isin people was said to usually met under this tree to hold general meeting of all villages. Another source still using the akeapple tree as the source of the name, states that Olupo of Ajase-Ipo and Aina the founder of Isanlu Isin were cured of certain decease by a diviner, who used the bark of the akeapple tree to treat them. It was out of gratitude that Aina named Isin after the magic tree. A third version says that when Aina got to Ade after a tedious journey, he rested under the akeapple tree (Igi Isin), for the relieve which the tree gave him, he named the area "Isin".

4.3 Data Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis

The presentation and analysis of data generated for this study are presented in tables; each table represents and test the hypothesis. The analysis is based on the research instrument distributed to 50 staffs and 100 members of the communities in the local government area of Isin local government area of Kwara State, with a 100% return rate.

Table 4.3.1 Demographic Data of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	62	41.3
Female	88	58.7
Total	150	100
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	50	33.3
Married	100	66.7
Total	150	100
Age	Frequency	Percent
18-30	85	56.7
31 above	65	43.3
Total	150	100
Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Primary/S.S.C.E/Equivalent	50	33.3
NCE/ND/DIPLOMA	70	46.7
BA/BSC/HND	30	20
Total	150	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

The table above shows the gender distribution of 150 respondents. It is clear that 58.7% were females, while 41.3% were males. The table shows that out of 150 respondents, 100 or 66.7 were single while 50 accounting for 33.3% were married. The above table reveals that the respondents between 18-25 years have the highest distribution with 56.7% while those who were between 27 and above is 43.3% of the total respondents. The table also depicts that 50% percent were respondents with Senior School Certificate (SSCE), 46.7% are those with NCE/OND Certificates while 20% percent are those with B.Sc and HND Certificates of Degree.

Table 4.3.2 Hypothesis One

H₁: Isin Local Government Council contributes substantially to the Development of its rural areas.

S/N	Items	Options	Opinion	Percentage(%)
1	The main aim of establishing Isin Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people.	Yes No Undecided	132 15 3 150	88 10 2 100
2	Isin Local Government Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas.	Yes No Undecided Total	15 105 30 150	10 70 20 100
3	Ways in which Isin Local Government Council contributed to rural development.	Funding of projects in the rural areas. Empowering the rural people economically. Empowering the rural people politically Provision of amenities for the betterment of the rural area. All of the above None of the above Total	5 3 2 20 15 105 150	3.3 2 1.3 13.3 10 70 100
4	Availability of social amenities provided by government in your area.	Water Electricity Motorable road School Hospital Market Total	21 53 13 30 8 25 150	14 35.3 8.7 20 5.3 16.3 100
5	Council alone brings about the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospitals, schools, roads and farming equipment.	Yes No Undecided Total	30 100 20 150	20 66.8 13.3 100
6	The councils have tractors or caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture.	Yes No Undecided Total	40 80 30 150	26.8 53.3 20 100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

The able shows that 132, respondents which represents (88%) of the total respondents are of the view that the aim of establishing the local government if to bring development to the rural people, 15 respondents accounts for (10%) are of the view that the creation of local government is meant to bring development to the people while 3 or (2%) of the respondents is undecided in the issue. It also shows that 15 respondents (10%) of the total respondents agreed that the Isin Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas. This is followed by 105 or (70%) percent who said no that the council has not fulfil it obligations towards rural/grassroots development of the communities that made up the council area, while 30 respondents accounting for 20% percent remains undecided. Finally, from the analysis of the responses it clear that Isin local government council has not contributed substantially towards rural development.

The table reveals that 21 respondents which represent 3.3% of the responses agreed that the council have provided water. The 53 respondent representing 35.3% agreed that electricity is provided and that 8.7% says they have motorable roads. The 30 respondents agreed that many school are built in Isin local government, and hospital (5.3%) while 25 respondents representing 16.7% which comprises those living in the riverine areas of the local government agreed that the local government have provided markets. The table shows 30 respondents (20%) percent of the respondents are of the view that the local government council alone can bring the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospital, schools, roads and farming equipment. On the contrary 100 accounting for 66.67% of the respondents are of that the council alone cannot alone bring the needed development of her rural areas. While 20 (13.33%) of the respondents remains undecided on the question. Thus, it is clear that only the council cannot bring the needed development of her communities.

On the question does the council have tractors and caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture, 40 of the respondents representing 26.67% percent are of that the council have tractors and caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture, 80 accounting for 53.33% percent totally disagreed, while 30 respondents (20%) is undecided as to whether the council has caterpillars and tractors or not. Based on the responses above the, hypothesis is rejected based on the empirical verification gathered, which shows Isin local government council has not contributed very well toward rural/grassroots development going by the responses gotten from the respondents as analyzed below. Thus a null hypothesis is accepted which states that Isin local government council does not contributes substantially towards the development of its rural areas.

Table 4.3.3 Hypothesis Two

Ho₂: The inadequacies of skilled workers affect the ability of Isin local government council in carrying out developmental programmes.

S/N	Items	Options	Opinion	Percentage (%)
1	Isin Local Government Council have the following skilled workers.	Doctors Engineers Accountants Auditors	Yes Yes Yes Yes Total	
2	Skilled workers like Administrators, Engineers, and Doctors enough to engineer the necessary development of the area.	Yes No Undecided Total	90 23 37 150	60 15.3 24.7 100
3	None usage of the council artisan's engineers to use of contractors slows the pace of development in the area.	Yes No Undecided Total	100 20 30 150	66.7 13.3 20 100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

From the above data, it is revealed that the council have the needed manpower (skilled workers) as indicated by the responses (Yes) of the respondents in all the options given. The table shows that 90 respondents, representing % identified that the council have skilled but they are not enough to engineer the necessary development of the area, while 23 respondents accounting 37% was undecided as to whether the skilled workers are enough. The data collected revealed that 100 respondents or 66.7% identify that manpower in the council are used rather the council prefer to contractors and this slows down the pace of development, as most contract are abandoned as a result of kickbacks, 20 respondents representing 13.3% said no, in other words the none usage of the council artisan's and engineers does not slow the pace of development in the area. While 30 of the respondents remained undecided. Responses from the data analyzed, the hypothesis is rejected based on the empirical verification gathered, which shows that the inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of Isin local government council in carrying out developmental programmes, but that the none usage on the manpower (skilled workers like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors, etc) is the cause of slow pace of development in the area. Thus a null hypothesis is accepted.

Table 4.3.4 Hypothesis Three

Ho₃: Inadequate funding by both the Kwara State and the Federal Governments hinders Isin Local Government Council's ability in carrying out developmental Programmes.

S/N	Items	Option	Opinion	Percentage (%)
1	Isin Local Government Council is well funded by the State and Federal governments.	Yes No Undecided Total	45 85 20 150	30 56.7 13.3 100
2	Lack of funding of Isin Local Government Council affects her developmental strides in the rural areas.	Yes No Undecided Total	90 10 50 150	60 6.7 33.3 100
3	The poor state of roads, schools, market, and farming in the council area is occasioned by inadequate funding by the Federal and State governments.	Yes No Undecided Total	88 62 - 150	58.5 41.3 - 100

4	Sources that are available for generating revenues by the council internally.	Tenement rates from markets/stores Ticketing at parks Licensing fees Water ways rates		
5	Council generates enough money.	Yes No Undecided Total	34 100 16 150	22.7 66.7 22.7 100
6	How would you describe the local council's drive for internally generated revenue?	Satisfactory Non-Satisfactory Undecided Total	47 93 10 150	31.3 62 6.7 100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025

From the above data, it is revealed that at present the local government council is not well funded by both the State and Federal government. 85 of the respondents, which represent 56.7%, gave no as their response, while 45 or 30% percent of the total respondents agreed that the local government council is well funded and 20 respondents accounting for 13.3% percent remained undecided to the well funding of the council by both the State and Federal governments. This question was designed to find out if lack of funding of the Isin local government council affects her developmental strides in the rural communities. From the above table 85 of the respondents identified or agreed that lack of funding affects the developmental strides council in the rural areas, 15 of the respondents representing % said no, that the lack of funding will not affect the developmental strides of the council, while 50 or 33.3% of the total respondents is undecided in their opinions.

As shown in the table above, it is revealed that 88 or 58.67% of the total respondents are of the view that the poor state of road, schools, farming and markets is occasioned by the inadequate funding by both the State and Federal governments, as result of inadequate funding the council only ends up in paying workers' salaries, which led to the bad state of the roads and other infrastructures in the council area, 62 of the respondents accounting 41.33% of the total respondents disagreed that the poor state of infrastructure in the council area is not occasioned by the inadequate funding of the council. The table reveals the respondents' opinion on what sources are available for the council for generating revenues internally, the respondents agreed that the option given are available to the council for revenue generation. But in an interview with a member of the committee on internally generated revenue.

On the opinion of the respondents on if the council generates enough revenue internally, 100 respondents representing 66.67% of the total respondents said (No) that the council does not generate enough revenue internally, while 34 or 22.67% of the respondents agreed that the council generate enough revenue internally and 16 respondents accounting for 22.66% of the respondents are undecided in their opinions.

On the respondents' opinion on how they will describe the council drive for internally generated revenue, 93 of the respondents which represent 62% of the total respondents are of the view that it is Not Satisfactory, and in the interview Mr. Buwa said that the un-seriousness is the order of the day. 47 or 31.33% of the respondents are of the view that it is satisfactory; while 10 respondents representing 6.67% responses are undecided. From the analysis above it is clear that Isin local Government Council derive for internally generated revenue is not satisfactory and this is occasioned by her un-seriousness pursuing internally generated revenue. Responses from the data analyzed, the hypothesis is accepted based on the empirical verification gathered, which shows that the Inadequate funding by both The Kwara State and the Federal Governments hinders Isin Local Government Council's ability in carrying out developmental programmes.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

This study has clearly shown that there is evidence of engagement of Isin local government in community development in some communities that make-up the council area. The findings revealed that Isin local government has over the years embarked on some community development projects like road construction (wood walkways), provision of healthcare services, but little is done in the area of provision of education, provision of water and electricity in the area or the council or in communities that make-up the local government. The findings also reveal that Isin local government has not effectively and efficiently engaged in integrating community development programme. As this finding from chapter four revealed, Isin local government has a predominantly agriculture occupation. This means that greater percent of the population engage in farming as an occupation. However, as observed by the researcher, the local government to boast the productivity of agriculture in the area has initiated no much efforts or projects. Road constructions which help farmers in the transportation of farm products have not been adequately provided. This finding supports the view of Ayaide (1989) that local governments have not made appreciable impact in community development. Also supporting this with the figure in table 4.9, which analyzed respondent's views on provision of basic amenities (road constructions), where 70.% indicated negatively that road construction and other amenities in Isin local communities have not been adequately pursued.

The findings also show that healthcare services in Isin local government has not been sufficiently followed the limited number of hospitals in the council area. Health care services in Isin local government face the problem of insufficiency. There is only one general hospital in existence, which are functionally ailing and the Isin local government has provided one located at the headquarters. In addition, other existing cottage hospitals are privately owned. Local governments have not provided adequate healthcare services in most communities as a means of improving community development as revealed by the case of Isin local government area. The findings further reveal that educational development of Isin local government council has not improved as expected. Few existing primary and secondary schools are in acute shortage of facilities and are located in far distance from some communities especially those who are in the riverine areas of the council that have to travel far distance for school, the population structure also shows that greater number of people is in need of education.

The findings also revealed that other social amenities such as water, electricity among others have been in short supply. Water and electricity have not really been provided in most of the communities. It is also found that inadequate fund affects the engagement of Isin local government in community development. The finding of Isin local government from the Federation and State accounts has been enough for local government to carry out its function. Internally generated revenue has not been adequately increased to finance community development.

Finally, the findings show that lack of utilization of skilled workers like engineers to the use of contractors is another hindrance to rural development in Isin local government un-seriousness in revenue mobilization/generation internally is another major hindrance to the development of the council area. The findings also show that local government lack some equipments to carry out the community projects which requires heavy machines such as tractors, caterpillars and equipment.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study was carried out to examine the role of local government in rural development with a view to finding out its impact on grassroots/rural development. The study was conducted in Isin Local government and its constituent communities. The study has three main objectives which were specifically to; ascertain whether Isin local government has contributed substantially to rural development, finding out if inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) has any effect on the ability of Isin local government council in carrying out rural development programme and verifying whether inadequate financing by both state and federal governments hinders the council in carrying out developmental programmes.

The study was anchored on the “system theory” of David Easton. The theory argues that in every system, which includes political system, there are subsystems making up the entire system. These subsystems are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. The method adopted in this study is a triangulation of survey and descriptive analysis, which provided general impressions, summary of observations and findings made from the data collected. The methodology provided tools for the analysis of the impact of local government on grassroots development with Isin local government area as case study.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that Isin local government has not been effective in the development of rural communities. Its conclusion reveals that rural development is not adequately carried out in the local government area. For instance, with exception of the local government headquarters and few other communities are not electrified and the possibilities of embarking on these projects are very remote. This has slowed down some other projects like cottage industries, pipe-borne water in equally in short supply in the local government area.

The council has not performed well in the provision of medical facilities as most of the communities in the riverine areas travel far for medical services. The council has performed below expectation in the provision and maintenance of primary schools in the area, in some community's pupils provide their own desks with which to sit and learn, the council fails to utilize its manpower in carrying out projects rather prefer the use of contractors who give kickbacks. Finance is the bedrock of every business and government, it is evident that the council lacks the seriousness in the pursuance of internally generated revenue relying mostly on the Federal and State allocation which are not enough even to pay workers' salaries.

5.3 Recommendations

The study recommended that effort should be made by the council to revive revenue drive in the council and reward dedicated and honest staff. There is also a need to procure additional vehicles and boats to help revenue personnel to discharge their duty efficiently and effectively. The council should use direct labour in executing projects rather than the use of contractors, money paid to contractors can be channeled into other developmental projects in the area. Isin local government should expound its revenue generation to the water ways by collecting tax from the users of the water ways within her territories. There is a need for the council to procure tractors and fertilizers that will help the farmers in their production, and also bridge communities that are close with concrete bridge rather than wood walkways which will not last for a long period of time.

The present situation whereby development is concentrated in the local government headquarters to utter neglect of the rural communities does not give the other communities a sense of belonging. A change is required in this regard. It is important for the Federal and State to review the allocation of local governments, because the provision of primary education and health facilities will be improved upon when there is better allocation from the Federal and State governments.

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