

**THE IMPORTANT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS  
THE THIRD TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
(A CASE STUDY OF ILORIN WEST LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT, IKIRUN)**

***BY***

**AKINOLA, BLESSING OYINDAMOLA**  
***ND/23/PAD/PT/0497***

**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES (IFMS),  
KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT  
FOR THE AWARD OF NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND) IN  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

***MAY, 2025***

## **CERTIFICATION**

This project has been read and approved by the undersigned on behalf of the Department of Public Administration, Institute of finance and Management Studies (IFMS), Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin as meeting the requirements for the Award of National Diploma in Public Administration.

---

**MR. ADAM, J.O**

*(Project Supervisor)*

---

**DATE**

---

**MR. A.O OLOWOOKERE**

*(Project Coordinator)*

---

**DATE**

---

**MR. SERIKI, I.O**

*(Head of Department)*

---

**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to Almighty God the most sufficient and merciful and my Parent MR. & MRS. AKINOLA.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge this project to Almighty God, the beneficent and merciful for the guidance towards the completion of this project work.

My appreciation goes to my able supervisor MR. ADAM, J.O, the project coordinator Mr. A.O Olowookere and the Head of Department Mr. Seriki, I.O and the imparted in me. Most especially in the field of Public Administration.

My immeasurable depth of appreciation goes to my beloved parents, MR. & MRS. AKINOLA for their love and support towards me in monetary term and understanding throughout the course. Thank you so much for the support. May God bless you all beyond your imagination (Amen). I love you all.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

### CHAPTER ONE

1.0	Introduction	3
1.1	Background of the Study	3
1.2	Statement of the Study	3
1.3	Objectives of Study	4
1.4	Hypothesis	4
1.5	Significance of the Study	4
1.6	Operational Definition of Concept	4

### CHAPTER TWO

2.1	Local Government and Nation building	6
2.2	Inadequate Finance and Nation building	7
2.3	Paucity of skilled Manpower and Nation building	8
2.4	Theoretical Framework	8
2.5	Application of the Theory	9

### CHAPTER THREE

3.1	Method of data Collection	10
3.2	Method of data Analysis	10

### CHAPTER FOUR

4.1	History of OYUN Local Government Council	11
-----	--	----

4.2	Geography/Location	11
4.3	The Organizational Structure of OYUN Local Government Council	11
4.4	Data Presentation and Analysis	13
4.5	Findings and Discussions	17
CHAPTER FIVE		
5.1	Summary of Findings	18
5.2	Conclusion	18
5.3	Recommendations	18
	Bibliography	19

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

The expediency for the creation of local government anywhere in the world stems from the need to facilitate development at the grassroots. The importance of local government is a function of its ability to generate sense of belongingness, safety and satisfaction among its populace. All forms of government, regimes or political systems have so far ensured the attainment of this goal. Such strategy for ensuring national administrative development and political efficacy is found in the concept and practice of local government. Whatever is the mode of government, local government has been essentially regarded as the path to, and guarantor of, national integration, administration and development.

In Nigeria's socio-political context, with multiplicity of culture, diversity of languages and differentiated needs and means, the importance of such an organization in fostering the needed national consciousness, unity and relative uniformity as well as preservation of peculiar diversities cannot be over-emphasized. Central to the creation of local government, however, is its ability to facilitate an avenue through which government and the people intermix, relate and more quickly than any other means resolve or dissolve issues that may have heated the system. Local government has been perceived as a panacea for the diverse problems of the diverse people with diverse culture.

As important as this tier of government has been, there seems to be some impediments

that have been infringing on its performance and functions in recent times. These impediments range from political but undue interference of the higher levels of government i.e. federal and state governments, bribery and corruption to embezzlement and gross inadequacy of well-trained and qualified personnel to mention a few.

According to Nnoli (1981:36) and Rodney (1972:11), all people have shown a capacity for independently increasing their ability to live more satisfactory life than before. This is then a progressive process that has no end.

A local government is semi-autonomous territorial unit created by the constitution or general laws of a state to undertake certain functions within specified or limited geographical area. According to Agbakoba (2004:3), 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 governments 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.

In fact, democracy itself originated and developed along the line of local government initiatives. This is why the executive, legislative and judicial arms of these governments are elected or appointed as the case may be. In Nigeria, local government is created to bring government closer to the people. The definition of local government by the Nigerian Federal Government leaves one with no iota of doubt that it is largely both theoretically



sound and service oriented to the people. It talks of representative councils with substantial control over local affairs, for the provision of services and implementation of projects in their areas, to complement the activities of both the State and Federal governments. The definition also amply recognizes the need for local government autonomy as the substantial control of local governments is aimed at staff, institutional and financial matters, among others (Nigeria, 1976). In addition to the above, the Nigerian Federal Government is one of the few governments in the world perhaps in addition to Brazil (Erero, 1998) that have elevated LGs to a third tier of government. By so doing, the State governments do not exercise absolute controls over local governments.

Therefore, the work seeks to contribute in illuminating the actual status of OYUN local government as regard community or nation building which it purports to be *raison d'être* of its existence. The empirical analysis will show whether creation of local government is really for the sake of ensuring grassroots development or mere political compensation for the government loyalists. It is in this light that we chose to study the topic.

Specifically, the paper carefully, critically and objectively examines operational definitions, local government, and development and opinion of the people expressed through the print media about the impact of the OYUN local government council in their areas. And of course, germane recommendations which emanate from the study are provided for the improvement of local government in the development of the localities/communities.

## **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 the root of development in terms of dealings with the people which democracy is centred upon. Hence, local government is visibly seen as co-agent of nation building and as partners in progress with both states and federal governments in nation buildings.

To this end, this study sets out to investigate the impact of local government on rural/grass root development with emphasis on OYUN Local Government of Kwara State. Knowing the roles the government needs to play in development of any society and the obvious inability of the national and state governments in the task of rural areas, Local government has been created essentially to compliment the efforts of the states and national government in the task of nation building. Nevertheless, abject poverty and underdevelopment remains a common feature in these rural communities.

Thus, in pursuance of the central problem in this research a number of questions have been raised (posed) for this research purpose. They are:

Has OYUN local government Area contributed substantially to nation building?

Does Inadequacy of Skilled Workers (like qualified engineers of all types, medical

doctors etc) affect the ability OYUN local government council in carrying out nation building programme?

Does inadequate financing of the local government by the state and federal government affect the ability of OYUN local government council to contribute to nation building?

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The broad objective of this study is to assess the performance of OYUN local government council in the area of nation building.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows.

To ascertain whether OYUN local government has contributed substantially to nation building.

To find out if inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) affect the ability of OYUN local government council in carrying out nation building programme.

To verify whether inadequate financing by both state and federal governments hinders the council in carrying out developmental programmes.

### **HYPOTHESIS**

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

**H<sub>1</sub>:** OYUN local council has not contributed substantially to nation building in the local government area.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** The inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical

doctors, etc) affects the ability of OYUN local government council in carrying out nation building programmes.

**H<sub>3</sub>:** Inadequate funding by both the Kwara State and the Federal Governments hinders OYUN Local Government council's ability to carrying out developmental programmes.

## **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the study provides a theoretical framework for the understanding of the role of local government in nation building in Nigeria. Therefore considering the pivotal role of local government in development in general, such information will be of immense help for policy formulation on the development of grassroots. The result of the study will equally be of help to other researchers who may want to research on such topic orrelated topics on development in the academia in the future.

On the practical significance, the study will draw attention of, and enlighten both the stakeholders and those who implement policies on nation building in Nigeria who may not really understand the central role of nation building on the crucial and inescapable role of local government system. As a result, the rural dwellers will endeavour to participate full in grassroots democratization and development, while those who implement policy on development in Nigeria will become dedicated to policy formulation, recommendations and implementation.

## **1.6 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF CONCEPT**

**Grassroots/Nation building:** 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. According to Todaro (1985) grassroots development is an advancement that makes life more meaningful in all its entirety. Whether political, economic, socio-cultural and infrastructural.

**Rural Dwellers:** Rural dwellers are 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 includes small scale farmers, tenants, etc who seek livelihood in the rural areas.

**Democracy/local government:** The term democracy “literally signifies” the rule of the people: the term democracy as it is used in the study synchronizes with Abraham Lincoln’s definition of democracy. Gauba (1981:421) quoting Lincoln and it reads: Democracy is 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.

From the foregoing, one can rightly say that democracy is all about “peoples” participation in government—and local government. Therefore, Democracy and local government are inseparable and are synonymous.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATION BUILDING**

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 (1983:55) 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.

Lawal, (2008:56) 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, (1989:38) 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.

Ogunna (1980:44) 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. Reform in the local government service.

Okunade, (1988:).expressing his own idea, state 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 change 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.

According to Sehinde, (2008:9) 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 mould 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 nation building, 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. Writing on nation building in Nigeria, Mabogunje, (1992:191) in his book "leading issues in Nigerian Nation building" 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 nation building problem such as lack of co-ordinated community development programmes, manpower problems of infrastructure, problem of relevant rural education. He



suggest 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 nation building in Nigeria, Olowo, et al., and (1991) describes government approach to nation building 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 elite. He calls for a model of nation building, which involves the genuine participation of the rural people. Such he continues will be relatively independent of centralized urban-oriented bureaucratic machines.

Nwaka, (1999:33-36) on his part argued that government imposition of nation building programme on the communities have been Cog in the wheel of nation building. 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 nation building 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.

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 Nation building Authorities established in 1975 to promote nation building. He laments that in practice the scheme bloated bureaucracies feeding on mega millionnaira contracts for irrigation and other agricultural projects while the rural areas for which they are meant seemed to have recorded deeper in debilitating poverty.

## **2.2 INADEQUATE FINANCE AND NATION BUILDING**

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 politicised 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 1963:93) 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. However, as Ikelegbe (2005:54), for example, puts it, there is ‘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 (1968:225) the *raison d’être* of local authority is to collect it 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, (2001:1) in their local government have noted that they do not exist but in communities and societies and have

roots in large social system.

Following 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) (c) 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.

According to Okoli (1998:125), 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 Yearbook (1998:18).

Adediji (2000:96) asserts that the success or failure and the effectiveness or

ineffectiveness of local government depends on the financial resources available to the individuals 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, (1965:126) 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 (2004:34) 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 lies in the ability of the chairman to look inwards to create means of generating funds for the council.

### **2.3 PAUCITY OF SKILLED MANPOWER AND NATION BUILDING**

When we are talking about manpower, we are referring to human resources. Manpower to often taken as the most important resources of an organization because other resources are harnessed to meet the need to men. This problem has been a major constraints to the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in Nigeria vis-à-vis OYUN local government.

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 nation building.

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 (1995:114), 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

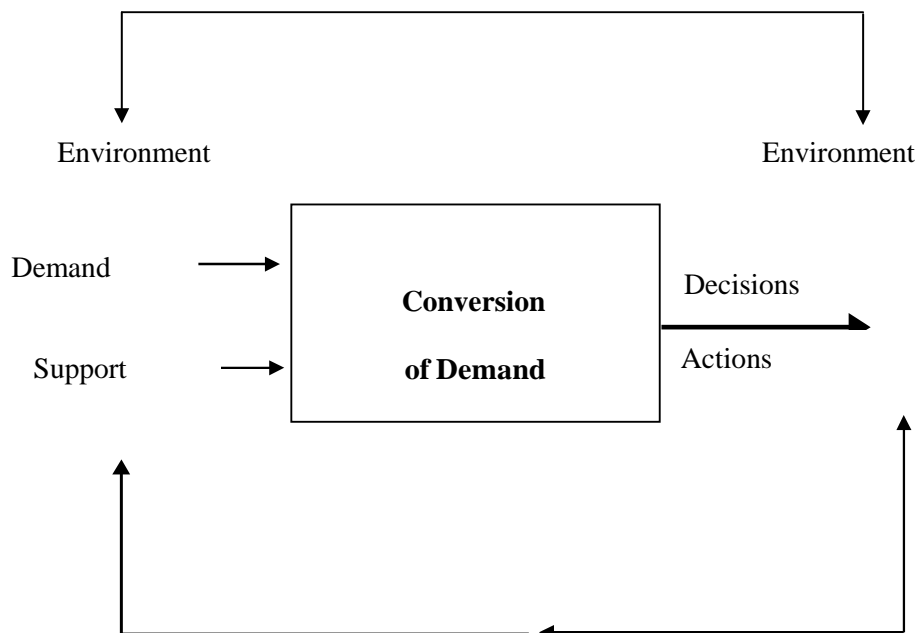
militate against effective performance in most local governments in Nigeria.

This paper intends to study local government as an instrument of nation building and see if there has been any significant change in terms of the effect in OYUN Local Government Area of Kwara State.

## **2.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theory which informs our discussion of local government and nation building, a study of OYUN local 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.



Diagrammatic representation of David Easton's System Analysis

## 2.5 APPLICATION OF THE THEORY

Applying this theory of 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.

According Apter (1963:15) 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. OYUN local 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. Support on the other hand could be people's participation in decision making process or voting in community development project as well as financial support, in form of tax, rates paid by the people including grant from Kwara State and Federal Government of Nigeria. Though, this means they provide raw material on which the system acts, so as to produce output. This in turn will influence the environment of the system and consequently generate continued demand which in turn creates a feed back and the whole process continues on a cyclical pattern.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

According to Cohen and Manion (1980:26) methods, refer to the approaches used in research to gather data which are to be used as a basis for inference and interpretation for explanation and prediction. There is no doubt that the quality of data is inextricably tied to the methods and techniques used for gathering the data. Thus to generate relevant data for this study, we shall adopt observation technique. Obasi, (1999:169) Defined methodology as a purposefully planned and systematically executed act of watching or looking at the occurrence of events, activities and behaviour which constitute the subject of focus of research or study. The relevance of observation method to this study is obvious since it yield data that pertain directly to typical behavioural situations; assuming, of course, that they are applied to such situations (Selltiz et al, 1977:201).

The implication of this is that through observation, accurate explanation of the variables under study can be made. However, given the nature of this study especially the type of data required to interrogate our hypotheses, we will utilize primary (interview through questionnaire) and secondary sources of data. Secondary sources of data refer to a set of data gathered or authored by another person, usually information from the available data, archives, textbooks, journals, seminar paper, newspapers and magazines, internet printouts, government documents and other relevant documents on local government and

nation building in Nigeria.

The advantages of secondary sources of data lie in the obvious fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. This makes the establishment of trends and consistent patterns over time possible. Again, the gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought.

Instrument to be used:

The instrument used in collecting data for this study is questionnaire and oral interview. Although the major one will be the questionnaire. It will be used to elicit pertinent information from the subjects. The questionnaire has two sections. Section A will be used to entail the personal characteristics of the respondents while section B will help to elicit information about local government and community development in OYUN local government area.

Population of the Study:

The Population of this study is drawn from all the sixteen (16) communities that make-up the OYUN local government. These communities includes the following; Okifamba, Opuama, Gbokoda, Ugoe-Egbin, Ajagbodudu, Oghey, Abigborodo, Ajaolubgeti, Idebagbene, Ugogoegin, Ogobudugbudu, Oboghor, Tsekelewu. The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 137,300.

Sample Size

For this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling technique in selecting the respondents. From a total of 137,300 population 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. The population of this study runs into several thousands and that is why a less than 5% sample is considered appropriate.

### **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:**

As stated earlier in this discussion, the study included itself to simple Random Sampling to draw the population of the study. The use of simple random sampling helped to elucidate the research analysis. Simple Random Sampling gives equal chances of opportunity to the entire Universe in the population and reduces the rate errors.

Validity and reliability of the instrument:

The instrument was validated, which means that the questionnaires were given to the supervisor and were thoroughly vetted. After going through them, corrections and suggestive directions were made. To ensure reliability of the instrument used for this study, a pilot test was conducted using twenty five people from OYUN local government council and twenty five people from the communities. This also will help to check the ambiguities of the questions before administering it to the actual subjects.

### **3.2 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

For the analysis of data, we will rely on qualitative descriptive analysis. Asika (2006:118) defines qualitative descriptive analysis to mean summarizing the information

generated in the research verbally so as to further discover relationships among variables. The adoption of the foregoing analytical method becomes necessary since the study will rely principally on secondary sources of data.

The researcher used simple percentage, tables and descriptive statistical method in analysis.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.1 HISTORY OF OYUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

Environment, according to Igwe (2005:138) is the context in which a phenomenon, whether natural or human exists and operates, which not only establishes the boundaries and other condition for development but also its functions in the context of the wider environment. OYUN local government is one of the (25) twenty five local government areas of Kwara State. Igbuzor opined that it was established as a full fledged local government from 1976 local government reform (Igbuzor, 2005:145).

In 1991, the Babangida administration created Kwara State as one of the nine new states in 1991. However, against the expectations of the proponents of the state, some parts of Osun Province were joined to Kwara Province to make up the new state and the headquarters of the state was located in Ilorin which was under Offa Province.

Ilorin local government was divided into two local government areas, Ilorin South and OYUN local government areas Koko; an Itsekiri town became the headquarters of the OYUN local government Koko town is known with the ancient palace Nana Olomu who had earlier contact with the Europeans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The local government is made up of both Itsekiri and Ijaw Oil producing communities. Moreover, although the Itsekiri and Ijaw respectively had 11 and 9 wards in the LGA, most of which are situated along river side. Making development activities almost impossible as a result of no good access roads (Ogafere 2005).

As a result of the new Local Government created by the Abacha's regime resulted to ethnic crisis between the Ijaw's, Itsekiri, that led to the lost of lives and properties in the area. Thus, the OYUN Local Government Council Secretariat was not left out. In 2003 the council was burnt down as a result of the crisis making the council to loose its important documents, in 2005 the council broken into by thieves and they removed important document most especially financial documents.

## **4.2 GEOGRAPHY/LOCATION**

OYUN local government council lies 30 miles from the sea on the landward margins of the mangrove swamp of the Western Niger Delta, sharing boundary in the east with Ologbo in Edo state, north Oghara in Ethiope West local Government Area of Kwara State. Koko the head quarter was developed as a colonial town as European firms established factories and the British colonial administration established a vice-consulate there in 1891 (Lloyd 1974:227).

## **SOCIOLOGY & COMPOSITION**

The local government and its constituent communities is organized in families, clans, villages and communities. Family is the smallest unit of organization followed by clan village and community in ascending order. As it concerns the leadership, there is head, clan head and the family head representatives which constitute the executives. There is traditional ruler who is the symbol of modern state in the community (Ugwuoke, 2005:32).

The local government comprised of predominantly Itsekiri, Ijaw and with minor

tribes other languages such as Urhobo, Yoruba and Edo speaking tribes.

## ECONOMY

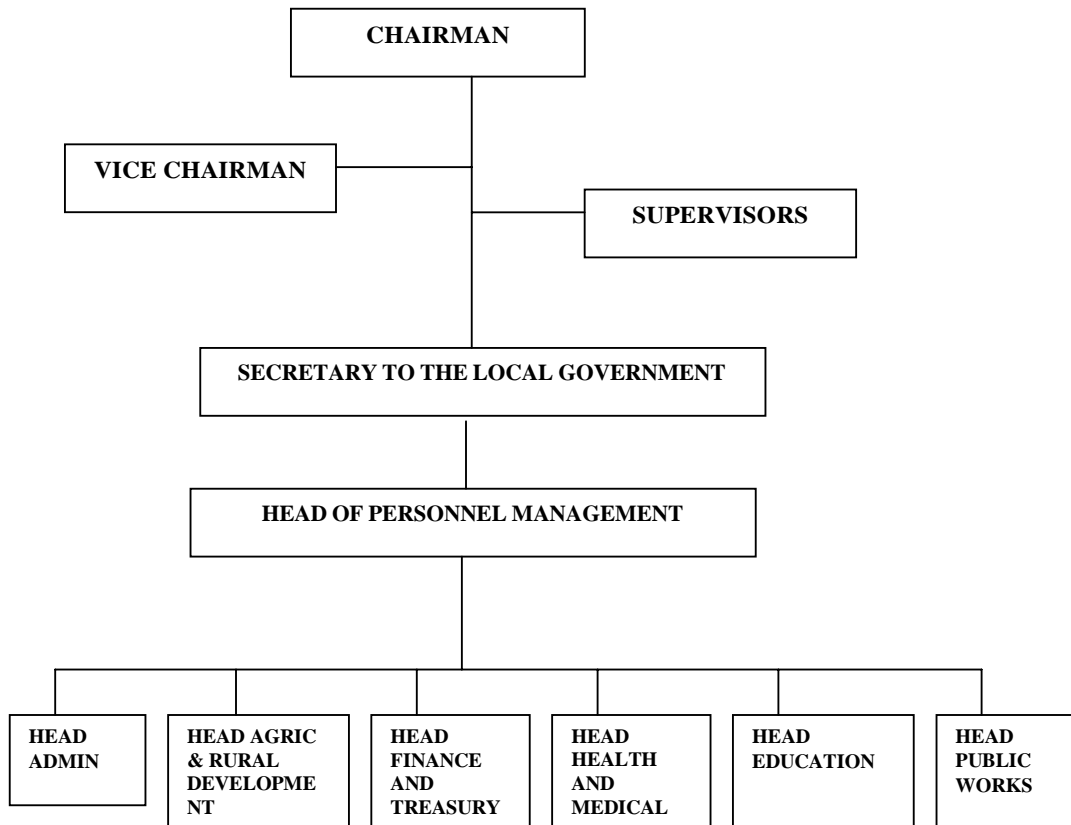
The inhabitants of OYUN Local government council are predominant farmers and small proportion who derives their livelihood from petty-trading, hand craft and white collar jobs. There are farmers of both crops and livestock. Palm wine tappers, government and private sector workers etc. Agricultural activities are carried out essentially for subsistence and commercial purposes.

Hence, we believe that with the above over view of the environment of Koko, it has provided an adequate ground for assessment of the impact of democracy on grass root development. Therefore, it is very pertinent we proceed to the impact of local government on nation building in the next section.

### **4.3 THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF OYUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

Decrees 23 and 50 of 1991 provided for a separate Executive Arm of the Local Government distinct from the Local Legislative Council. The Executive Arm consists of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Supervisors and a Secretary appointed by the Chairman. We now turn to discuss the organizational structure of OYUN Local Government council.





## ORGANIZATION CHART OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Source:** Ola, E.G., Tonwe, DAN (2003) Local Administration and Local Government in Nigeria

**CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Prior to December 1987, each Local Government Council was required to elect its chairman from amongst the elected councilors for a term co-terminus with that of the Council, and this was subject to the

approval of the state governor and in some cases, as was the case in the defunct Bendel State, the Governor is merely informed through the Commissioner for Local Government. This position changed just before the December 12, 1987 local government elections when provision was made for the Chairman who has a Deputy to be directly elected by the people. The Chairman is the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Local Government. He functions with the assistance of his Deputy, Supervisors and Secretary appointed by him.

**THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** The aspirant for the office of Local Government Chairman nominates a Vice as his running mate before the actual campaign for Local Government elections kickoff. The success of a particular aspirant for the office of Local Government Chairman at the poll automatically means the success of his vice Chairman at the poll. The Chairman of the Local Government is required to assign specific responsibilities for any business of the Local Government to the Vice Chairman.

**SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** The 1976 Local Government Reform provided for a Chief Executive Officer who is the Administrative Head of the local Bureaucracy. He is designated Secretary to the Local Government Council. He is required to be a high ranking official not below salary grade level 12. Recent reform efforts have brought about changes not in the mode of appointment, but also in the tenure of Secretary to the Local Government. The Secretary to Local Government is now appointed by the Chairman of Local Government and holds office at the pleasure of Chairman.

The Secretary provides political and administrative direction to the local

bureaucracy as a whole. He is also responsible for advising the Local Government generally helping the Chief Executive to ensure that the programmes and decisions of the Local Government are implemented.

**SUPERVISORS:** Prior to 1991, supervisory councillors (as they were called) were elected from among the elected members of local government council. The 1976 guidelines for local government Reform provided that the number should normally exceed four. The spate of reforms since 1976 has about phenomenal changes. The nomenclature “Supervisory councillor” has been changed to “Supervisor” A supervisor is now nominated by the Chairman of the Local Government from outside the local legislative council subject to the approval of the local council Where a member of the local legislature is appointed to the position of Supervisor, he/she will have to vacate his seat as a councillor. This requirement was occasioned by the fact that the legislative and executive arms of the Local government are now distinct organs.

Supervisors, like the supervisory councillors of old are primarily responsible for the political direction and general policy of the government with regard to such departments assigned to them including the administration of any department or departments as the case may be. They are responsible to the chairman of the local government.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Each Local Government in the country has a Cabinet which is the executive committee at the local level. The Executive committee is composed of the chairman of the Local Government

and his vice, the supervisors and the secretary to the Local Government. Heads of Departments also attend and its meetings.

The Executive committee is responsible for determining the general direction of the policies of the Local Government co-ordinating the activities of the local government, and charging the executive functions of the local government.

**THE BUREAUCRATIC COMPONENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** There are three important aspects of the bureaucratic setup of local government in the country. The first is the Head of Personnel Management of the local bureaucracy. The heads of the various departments constitute the second aspect. The third is the subordinate personnel. These three aspects are examined below:

#### **Head of Personnel management**

The Head of Personnel Management under the present arrangement, strictly speaking is the highest official of the local bureaucracy, now that the office of the Secretary to the Local Government is now politicised and the position is filled by appointment from within or outside the Unified Local Government Service by the Chairman.

He works closely with the Secretary to the Local Government and helps to coordinate the work of the various heads of departments as well as seeing to personnel matters in the Local Government as a whole. In the performance of duties, he is responsible to the Secretary to the Local Government.

**HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:** Below the Head of Personnel Management in OYUN Local Government is the hierarchical set-up of the Local Government

Department, Heads of Departments. They are responsible for executing policies and programmes of the Local Government at departmental level. They are also responsible for co-ordinating the work of the sections under them.

#### The Subordinate Personnel

The subordinate personnel consist of those officers who are either under the Heads of Departments or the sectional heads and are responsible to their individual heads of departments or sectional heads.

#### The Personnel System

All staff of the Local Government belongs to the Unified Local Government Service. Appointments, posting, promotion discipline, etc of the senior members of staff is done by Local Government Service Commission appointed by the State Government. To supplement the staff available to the Local Government under the Unified Local Government Service, provisions exist in the various Local Government Service, provisions exist in the various Local Government Laws in the country for officers belonging to the State Civil Service to be posted to the Local Governments on secondment. Local Governments can also utilize the technical staff of the state agencies by way of seeking technical advice and assistance.

## **4.4 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **DATA PRESENTATION**

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

nation building using OYUN Local Government Council of Kwara State as a study area.

In order to empirically evaluate the stated hypothesis that;

OYUN local council has not contributed substantially to nation building in the local government area.

The inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of OYUN local government council in carrying out developmental programmes.

Inadequate funding by both the Kwara State and the Federal Governments hinders OYUN local government council's ability in carrying out developmental programmes.

#### ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

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 staff's and 100 members of the communities in the local government area of OYUN local government area of Kwara State, with a 100% return rate.

#### SECTION A

#### **GENDER, AGE, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND RELIGION DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS.**

Table 4.1

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	62	41.3%
Female	88	58.7

Total	150	100%
-------	-----	------

**Source: 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.

Table 4.2

Age	Respondents	Percentage
18-25	85	56.7%
27 and above	65	43.3%
Total	150	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

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.

Table 4.3

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage
Married	100%	66.7%

Single	50%	33.3%
Total	150	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

From the above table, one can conclusively say that out of 150 respondents, 100 or 66.7 were single while 50 accounting for 33.3% were married.

Table 4.4

Educational. Qualification	Respondents	Percentage
SSCE	50	33.3%
NCE/OND	70	46.7%
HND/B.Sc	30	20%
Total	150	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

The table above 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 4.5

Religion	Respondents	Percentage
----------	-------------	------------



Christian	130	66.7%
Muslim	0	0%
Others	20	13.3%
Total	150	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

The table above shows the religion distribution of respondents. It obvious that 66.7% percent were Christians, while 13.3% of the respondents were other religions.

## SECTION B

### HYPOTHESIS ONE

**H<sub>1</sub>: OYUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CONTRIBUTES SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS RURAL AREAS?**

Table 4.6: Opinions of the respondents on the main aim of establishing OYUN Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people?

<b>Options</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	132	88%
No	15	10%
Undecided	3	2%
<b>Total No of Respondent</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the table above, 132, respondents which represents (88%) of the total respondents are of the view that the aim of establishing the local government is 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.

Table 4.7: Opinions of the respondents on OYUN Local Government Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas?

<b>Options</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	15	10%
No	105	70%
Undecided	30	20%
<b>Total No of Respondent</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 4.2 shows that 15 respondents (10%) of the total respondents agreed that the OYUN 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% percents remains undecided. Finally, from the analysis of the responses it clear that OYUN local government council has not contributed substantially towards nation building.

Table 4.8: Opinions of the respondents in what ways have OYUN Local Government Council contributed to nation building?

<b>Options</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Funding of projects in the rural areas	5	3.3%
Empowering the rural people economically	3	2%
Empowering the rural people politically	2	1.3%
Provision of amenities for the betterment of the rural areas	20	13.3%
All of the above	15	10%
None of the above	105	70%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table above indicates that 105 respondents representing 70% percents of the total respondents disagreed or says that the local government have not contributed to nation building in either 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 areas, and 15 which accounts for 10% percents says that the council has contributed in the provision of basic amenities in the area.

Table 4.9: Opinions of the respondents on what amenities are provided by the local government in your area?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage
Water	5	3.3%
Electricity	5	3.3%
Motorable Road	3	2%
School	5	3.33%
Health Centre	3	2%
Wood walkways	10	6.67%
Canopy Jetty Market	2	1.3%
None of the above	117	78%
<b>Total No of Respondent</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the table above, 5 respondents which represent 3.3% of the responses agreed that the council have provided water, and electricity and school, 3 that 2% says they have motorable roads, and health centre while 10 respondents representing 6.6% which comprises those living in the riverine areas of the local government agreed that the local government have provided wood walkways for them. 177 or 78% of the total respondents totally disagreed (none of the above) that the council have not provided any basic amenities in their communities. From the foregoing it deduced that though the council have little but need to more in the area of provision of basic amenities.

Table 4.10: Opinions of the respondents on, can the council alone bring about the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospitals, schools, roads and farming equipments?

<b>Options</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	30	20%
No	100	66.67%
Undecided	20	13.33%
<b>Total No of Respondent</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From table 4.5, 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 equipments. On the contrary 100 accounting for 66.67% of the respondents are of that the council alone can not alone bring the needed development of her rural areas. While 20 or (13.33%) of the respondents remains undecided on the question. Thus, it is clear that only the council can not bring the needed development of her communities.

#### 4.5 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study has clearly shown that there is evidence of engagement in OYUN Local government in community development in some communities that make-up the council area. The findings revealed that OYUN local government has over the years embarked.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 SUMMARY**

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

The method adopted in this study is a triangulation of survey and descriptive analysis, which provided general impressions, summary of observations and findingsmade

from the data collected. The methodology provided tools for the analysis of the impact of local government on grassroots development with OYUN Local government area as case study.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

Generally, it could be seen that OYUN local government has not been effective in the development of rural communities. Its conclusion reveals that nation building are inadequately 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 is 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 communities 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**

From the findings, I discovered that lack of seriousness on the part of the OYUN

local government revenue collection staff, dishonesty of revenue officials, inadequate vehicles and boats for revenue drive among others contribute to low internally generated revenue in the local government.

We therefore recommend that effort should be made by the council to revive revenue drive in the council and reward dedicated and honest staff. There is also need to procure additional vehicles and boats to help revenue personnel to discharge their duty efficiently and effectively. We recommend that the council should use direct labour in executing of projects rather than the use of contractors, money paid to contractors can be channelled into other developmental projects in the area.

OYUN 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 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.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Books

Abraham Lincoln cited in Grobnoic Satori (1976) *Democratic theory*, Detroit wayn: State University Press.

Achebe, C. (1983) *The Trouble with Nigeria*, Enugu: fourth Dimension publishers

Adamolekun, L., (2006), *Postscript: Reorienting the Leadership of Governmental Administration for Improved Development Performance*, in Ladipo

Adamolekun (ed.), *Politics, Bureaucracy and Development in Africa*, Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Adedeji, A. (2000). Renewal of the Search for Systems of Local Governance that can serve the common Good. In: Adedeji, A. & Bamidele, A. (eds). *People Centred Democracy in Nigeria? The Search for Alternative Systems of Governance at the Grassroots*, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books NigeriaPlc.

- Ajayi, K. (2000) *Theory and Practice of Local Government*. Ado Ekiti, UNAD.
- Ake, C. (1966) *Democracy and Development in Africa Nigeria*: Longman Nigeria Plc.
- Appadorai, A., (1975) *The Substance of Politics*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Asika, N (2006) *Research Methodology in the Behavioural Sciences Lagos*: Longman Nigeria Plc.
- Bryne, T., (1983), *Local government in Britain*, England: Pen Grime books
- Clark, E.V. (2007) *A short Diplomatic History of the Cold war*, An African experience, Benin: Alen Publications.
- Easton, D., (1965) *A Framework for Political Analysis*, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Printice Hall.
- Eme, A. (1997) *Issues in Federalism*, Benin City: Ethiope Publishing Corporation.
- Ezeani, E.O., (2004), *Local Government Administration*, Enugu: Zik-Chuks Printing Press.
- Ezeife, R., (2002), *Readings on local Government*, Ibadan: Spectrum books publishers.
- Gauba, O.P., (2004), *An introduction to Political Theory*, Delhi: Macmillan India Ltd.
- Goode, W. and Hatt, P., (1952) *Methods in Social Research*. Singapore: McGraw Hill Book Company Inc.
- Igbuzor, O. (2005) *Perspectives on Democracy and Development*, Garki: Joe Tolalu associates.
- Igwe, O. (2005), *Politics and Globe Dictionary*, Aba: Eagle publishers.

- Ikelegbe, A.O., (2005), *The Local Government System and Grassroots Development in Nigeria: Issues, Problems and Challenges* in A.G. Onokerhoraye and G.E.D. Omuta (eds.) *Perspectives on Development: A Book in Honour of Pius O. Sada*, Benin City: Centre for Population and Environment Development.
- Lawal, S. (2000) *Local Government Administration in Nigeria: A Practical Approach*" In Ajayi, K (ed) *Theory and Practice of Local Government*, Ado Ekiti, UNAD.
- Lawal, S., (2000), *Local Government Administration in Nigeria: A Practical Approach*, In Ajayi, K (ed) *Theory and Practice of Local Government*, Ado Ekiti: UNAD
- Nwabueze, B.O. (1982) *A Constitutional History of Nigeria*. London, Longman.
- Nwankwo, B.C., (2007), *Authority in Government*, second ed. Onitsha: Abot books Ltd.
- Obasi, I.N (1999) *Research Methodology in Political Science*. Enugu: Academic Publishing Company.
- Offiong, O.J., (1996), *Systems Theory and Structural Functionalism in Political Analysis*, in A.O. Oronsaye (ed.), *Nigerian Government and Politics*, Benin City: Petersam Publishers.
- Ogunna, A.E.C.(1980) *Local Government and Community Development in Okoli* (ed) National Conference on the New Local Government System in Nigeria (Development of Political Science UNN).
- Okoli, F.C. (1985). *An Introduction to Theory and Practice of Local Government: A Nigerian Perspective*; Nsukka Topmost Printing Press.

Okunade, A. (1988). Local Government in Nigeria – A myth: The Way Out. In: Oyeyipo O., Ayade A., Kwanashie A., Mohammed A. (eds). Leading Issues in Territorial Decentralization in Nigeria and France. Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaira.