



KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY, MALETE, NIGERIA

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUTE STUDIES (SPGS)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY AND GRASSROOTS
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF
SAKI-WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE**

BY

OLAKUNLE MICHAEL KAYODE
15/17/MPA 007

April 2021



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M.Sc. THESIS SUBMITTED

BY

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15/17/MPA 007

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KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY, MALETE NIGERIA**

April 2021

DECLARATION PAGE

I hereby declare that this thesis titled LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY AND GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: (A CASE STUDY OF SAKI-WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE) is a record of my research. It has neither been presented nor accepted in any previous publication for higher degree.

MICHEAL .K. OLAKUNLE

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APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that this thesis LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY AND GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: (A CASE STUDY OF SAKI-WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE). By MICHEAL KAYODE OLAKUNLE has been read and approved as meeting the requirements of the Department of Politics and Governance for the award of Masters of Science in public Administration.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to Almighty God for his wisdom, guidance and perfect protection upon my life throughout the course of my study in this great institution, Kwara State University, Malete, Ilorin.

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to almighty God, for the vision He has given me to embark on his programme, and also for his support to put this work together, my profound gratitude goes to my project supervisor, professor Ambali, for his patient and diligent supervision of this research work, I thank the current head of department, Dr Danjuma M.I for his fatherly roles.

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ABSTRACT

Local government administration in Nigeria is very important as an offshoot of the federal political arrangement which is characterized by decentralization of functions however, the argument in favour of the establishment of the local government is for the optimal use of local and national resources for economic development while on the political side, it is a valid tool for managing the country heterogeneities, reduce power-sharing tensions and cater for divergent needs of the different nationalities' or societies within a country. Local government is the closest level of government to the people. If the system of Local Government is truly local, it provides special opportunities for people to complain about the quality of services it renders and about the conduct of the council officials. Moreover, since central government all over the world are becoming increasingly distant in both physical psychological and even social senses, decentralization by devolution tends to bridge these various distances between the local civil servants and the citizens. Yet again, if local governments must be able to perform their assigned functions, they need to have some measure of autonomy. It must be noted that no one is advocating absolute freedom for local governments, that will equate them with the status of a state as there can be no state within a state, but should be given freedom of action that will enable them perform their constitutionally assigned functions. The study focuses on local government autonomy and grassroots development in Saki-west local government, Oyo state, it also examine the relevance of local government to grassroots development in Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State; and discuss the nexus between local government autonomy and grassroots developing in Saki West Local Government; and assess the development challenges confronting Saki West Local Government; and examine ways of developing Saki West Local Government by the local government administration. The scope of the research focuses on the effect of local government administration on grassroots development in Saki west local government. The study investigated the problems caused by centralization and how those problems have hindered development at the grassroots level. Explanations were sought from extant literature on the process of decentralization and its relevance to grassroots development in Nigeria. Local government autonomy was also examined as a vehicle through which the process of decentralization can be achieved. The study adopted quantitative and qualitative method of research in this case therefore both primary and secondary method of data collection were utilized A total number of fifty (50) questionnaires were administered to respondents and were used for the study supported with interview sessions conducted with the local government staffs.. The study therefore recommended that Local government council should recruit professionals qualify for effective rural development and should be entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing and appraising development programme in it area because it is not easy for people who live far away from the location of the project to make a comprehensive and realistic review of local project while state government should also ensure that local government plan does not vary with its own plan and at the implementation stage of local government should be responsible for mobilizing people support for programmes or project to be executed. It is mostly important to remember always that we should plan not just study only for people but also with them and local government officer be it political or administrative officer in local government council should change their mindset toward viewing public service as an avenue for self-enrichment.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Local government is government at the local level. So, before commencing the analysis, it is appropriate to examine what local government really stands for. A number of scholars amongst whom are Humes and Martin, Dilys, Hill, Robson, and Finer have attempted at different times to define local government. None of their definitions is absolutely satisfactory. As a result of the difficulty presented by the various definitions, scholars and practitioners are virtually agreed on what should be the basic elements of local government. These elements put together portray local government as that unit of administration with defined territory, powers and administrative authority with relative autonomy which administrative authority could be elected or appointed exclusively by the people. This means that when a local body that claim to represent the people is not chosen by them it can only be a local form of administration and local government. Local administration usually constitutes the administration of local communities by utilizing local agents appointed by and responsible to an external agent which could be a state, regional/provincial authority or national government. When local government also behave as if they are agents of and not distinct level of government they also unconsciously degenerate to local forms of administration.

Of the four approaches designed by nation states to promote development from below, the activities of Local Government fit into that of devolution. Expectedly, the next question is why do nation states decentralize by devolution?

Decentralization by devolution is supported on the grounds that centralization inhibits the active participation of the citizens in the running of their own affairs and by extension could lead to despotism. It is not surprising then that most countries of the world decentralize their administration by devolution for a number of reasons. A synthesis of these reasons often advanced for decentralization by devolution narrow them down to four basic ones.

These are:

- i. To promote economic development from below. This includes infrastructural provision.
- ii. To promote political integration and nation-building.
- iii. To promote local freedom of action/autonomy; and
- iv. To enhance grassroots democracy.

However, the protagonists of centralization have put forward a number of socio-economic reasons against decentralization by devolution. Most significant of these reasons is that it might be economically viable and operationally efficient in terms of staff and building to centralize the administration of a nation-state. Secondly, they argued that the citizens of a particular nation-state might clamour for uniform standard in relation to a particular service in a part of a country or clamour for even development all over the country for some political reasons. Thirdly, they submitted that for certain services, what should be the optimum area of operation is an issue of unresolved polemic.

Although these arguments are sufficiently daunting to the whole nation of decentralization by devolution, I want to posit that none of them is strong enough to either unilaterally or in conjunction with others displace the four basic reasons for establishing local government which have been enunciated above. Rather, over the years, there has been a pervading optimism among most political actors all over the world, that certain functions should be devolved to local government, which level of government should be elected, have a defined territory with a governing council and constitutionally allowed sufficient powers to execute its exclusively assigned functions for which, invariably, it is the most efficient provider compared to other agencies or government.

It should however, be noted that nation-states are not usually guided by a single reason in establishing their local government system, but rather by an amalgam of reasons emphasized in varying degrees. This is particularly true when one realize that government policy decisions are the outcome of compromise between different pressure groups and interests. Most often, the difference between the reasons of various governments lies in the weight attached to these reasons or in the order of priority latently or patently given to the reasons. Consequently, some of these reasons conflict in certain reasons for others preferred by certain governments. The sacrifice can be a conscious or unconscious move on the part of the national government". Against this background, we next analyze the role of local government.

Local government is the closest level of government to the people. If the system of Local Government is truly local, it provides special opportunities for people to complain about the quality of services it renders and about the conduct of the council officials.

Moreover, since central government all over the world are becoming increasingly distant in both physical psychological and even social senses, decentralization by devolution tends to bridge these various distances between the local civil servants and the citizens.

Yet again, if local governments must be able to perform their assigned functions, they need to have some measure of autonomy. It must be noted that no one is advocating absolute freedom for local governments, that will equate them with the status of a state as there can be no state within a state, but should be given freedom of action that will enable them perform their constitutionally assigned functions.

However, many centralists have argued that against giving, local freedom of action to local governments on the grounds that they are prone to corruption, inefficiency and many unethical practices.

Autonomy of the local government is the natural consequence of their statutory status. Since the local governments are created by an Act of the Legislature or Parliament, that Act lays down their powers, functions and relationship with Central or State Government. It also lays down how the local governments are to be constituted, and their term of office etc. The Central or State Government can exercise only that much control over the local government as is envisaged in the statute. That means that the local governments are free or autonomous in exercising the powers and performing their functions as are envisaged in the statute. This autonomy cannot be curtailed unless and until the statute is amended by the legislature.

The historical backdrop of modern local government frameworks in developing nations, including Nigeria is stacked with experimentation. There have been purposeful endeavours to modernize, the system to respond to the hope and aspirations of the people at the local level for optimal development. In spite of this effort, the systems is still being confronted with many challenges. Some eminent problems confronting local government frameworks in developing nations with Nigeria not an exemption include, but rather are not restricted to, basic dysfunction ally, absence of acceptable and ideal structure, weak project implementation capacities and duties.

The Nigeria Local Government framework is weak when compared with different countries in West Africa because much of the work flows from the State and Federal government. Most decisions with respect to development projects and use of money are made at the state and the central, and the local governments are compelled to do the bidding of the state government (Gbarte, 2011). The 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria gives the President the exclusive authority to appoint country administrators and other local authorities (Article 54 Sec D). The Constitution additionally states in Article 56 (A) that every single of such authority appointed by the President holds office at the pleasure and will of that President. This obviously has been the pattern of administration in the nation since the 1979 Constitution came into existence. Authorities of government work at the will

of the will of the President and are not responsible to the general population even at the local sub-units (Gbala, 2004).

The process of local government administration in Nigeria began as far back as the later phase of the nineteenth century. In 1880, G. W. Gibson outlined a plan by which full citizenship would extend to aboriginal in return for increased production of agricultural commodities. In any case, the coming of Lord Lugard to the administration of Nigeria in 1904 is by and large considered a defining moment in Nigerian politics, since it denoted the start of a deliberate, official strategy to build up a hinterland administration grounded on the British principle of indirect rule. Lugard formally established the principle of recognizing the pre-existing indigenous power structures (or rather, what “British Nigerians” took for indigenous power structures) and controlling through powerful families of local political groups. He imposed a uniform system of administration through a two-layered system of “Paramount Chiefs” and “Two Chiefs” on the hinterland (Gerdes, 2013).

In any case, the return to civilian democratic leadership in Nigeria was an initial step to bringing sustainable change. The first post-war government through an initiative of the President Olusegun Obasanjo (1979) introduced programs and decision-making processes geared toward empowering local citizens to take an interest in electing country officials, and managing local government. This process could be enhanced, and will engender adequate local participation in making decision at the local level (Nyei, 2011).

Alongside the draft Local Government Act of 2013, the decentralization process will concede political, fiscal, administrative and economic autonomy to the countries, this will induce sufficient participation in basic leadership at the local level, allowing local ownership of development activities.

In line with the current global trend of streamlining the role of the state, the governments of most developing countries including Nigeria have devolved power to grassroots institutions with a view to enhance development. Grassroots development is very essential to the overall development of any country. It is intended to bring development closer to the people and enhance local participation in the governance process of any country.

However, this seems to be absent in Nigeria. Nigeria has been branded as under-developed after several decades of existence. The country remains inaccessible and impassable after more than a century and a half of existence. The administrative system of governance and development initiatives have been firmly situated in the capital and in the hands of a very few people with the president at the center of this hegemonic authority. There seems to be lack of basic structures at the local level which leads to government not to

fully understand the concept of local government administration. Local government employees are seen as an extension of the government in the state capital; at such, they are reportable to their bosses in the capital in every respect.

Additionally, rural citizens lack control over resources and the opportunity to participate in decision making. They are not empowered to participate or engage their leaders in the development process. Development programs are planned by stakeholders at the state level.

As observed by Wale (2009), there is gamut of extant literature local government administration. However, it seems that very few publications are available to validate the Nigeria case. The research will benefit scholars who intend to embark on similar project and add to the few literature on Nigeria decentralization process. This research has provided the major stakeholders including but not limited to government actors and Civil Society the requisite knowledge on the process of decentralization.

As such, policy makers need to be guided to make decision from an informed position. Along with other studies in this area, the study will guide policy makers on priority areas that need to be addressed. This work will add to the existing, though few literatures on local government administration in Nigeria decentralization. The findings will provide stakeholders firsthand information on what is obtainable at the local level and unearth those challenges that exist which could also prompt further research as Nigeria earnestly strives to take grassroots development to the local level.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are many development challenges, confronting the local government administration in Saki local government area of Oyo State. Even though the traditional functions of local government administration is to build roads, provide pipe borne water. It has the stakeholders that the low development index in Saki West Local Government is attributed to low autonomous from the state, while others attributes the low performances by the local government to corruption. This work examines local government autonomous and its implication for the development of the grassroots in Saki West local government area of Oyo State.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The main Objective of this research work is to examine the impact of local government autonomy in rural development in Nigeria. While the specific objectives of this study are to:

- i. examine the relevance of local government to grassroots development in Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State;
- ii. discuss the nexus between local government autonomy and grassroots developing in Saki West Local Government;
- iii. assess the development challenges confronting Saki West Local Government; and
- iv. examine ways of developing Saki West Local Government by the local government administration.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. Does local government administration relevant to grassroots development in Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State?
- ii. Is there any nexus between local government autonomy and grassroots development in Saki West Local Government.
- iii. Are there any development challenges confronting Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State?
- iv. Is there any ways of developing Saki West Local Government by the local government administration?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study focused on the period from 2010 to 2015. The time frame was considered because of the decentralization polity initiated by the President Goodluck Jonathan led government in 2010 which sets to pave the way for local government autonomy through deconcentration and devolution.

The study intends to cover two of the thirty six states of the Nigeria federation, namely Oyo State and Ogun State.

The study investigated the problems caused by centralization and how those problems have hindered development at the grassroots level. Explanations were sought from extant literature on the process of decentralization and its relevance to grassroots development in Nigeria. Local government autonomy was also examined as a vehicle through which the process of decentralization can be achieved.

1.6 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Grassroots development is 45 new-era of neighbourhood activities, which are comprehended as more sober minded financial reactions to emergencies in business and social avoidance.

- i. **Decentralization:** Basically, the concept implies that there is a horizontal transfer of authority and decision-making from a higher sphere to lower tiers.
- ii. **Devolution:** This involves a significant transfer of some political, administrative and fiscal authority to governments usually at the local level.
- iii. **Deconcentration:** This primarily involves decongesting central government of its many functions by assigning duties and responsibilities to field units detached from the capital.
- iv. **Local Government:** Government closest to a locale which carries out administrative and executive functions assigned to it by statute or law.
- v. **Delegation:** A form of decentralization wherein central government designates duties and responsibilities to agencies that are not necessarily under the jurisdiction of the central authority; however, reportability remains to the central government.
- vi. **Grassroots Development:** For this study grassroots development refer to initiatives aim at spreading development evenly across the local level of government. For the purpose of this study grassroots developments will be used interchangeably with rural development.
- vii. **Autonomy:** Autonomy can be understood from the perspective of this study as the right to self-administration.
- viii. **Local Government Autonomy:** In this study local government is giving local communities the right to governed by initiating development activities and engaging in decision making. It will be used synonymously with Local Government in this study.

Plan of Work

The researcher organized the study into five interesting chapters. The first chapter is captioned introduction. Here the researcher discussed the background of the study, the statement of the research problem and the objectives of the study. These objectives were transformed into research questions. The significance of the study was explained followed by the scope of the study. Key terms and concepts were defined to suit the purpose of the study.

The second chapter is the review of extant and related literatures on the area of study the theoretical framework of the study was also discussed in chapter two and gaps in literatures were proffered by the researcher. Chapter three discussed the methodology the study incorporated. Chapter four is where the researcher did data analysis and discussion of findings of the study. Chapter five concluded the study and provided recommendation from the researcher.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Local Government

Local government is geographically closed to those they represent. As such, it is expected that these local authorities will exert a positive influence on the democratic life of a country; seeking after particular plans fitting to the necessities and mores of their respective locales (Bailey and Elliot, 2009).

The term local government is loaded with a good number of definitions; however, these various definitions are usually contingent upon the point of view and experience of the person attempting to define it. Whatever point of view or orientation about its definition, local government is for the most part seen as the administration at the local level. For instance Adeyemo (2005) sees local government as an element inside a country or state which is a constituent political unit with limited and constrained authority with the end goal of decentralizing political power. Moreover, Adeyemi (2005) sees local government as an element inside a country or state which is a decentralizing political power constituted by law to manage services and regulate functions by a locally elected body which is formally responsible to them. This supervision of central government; however with, to a degree, certain financial, political and administrative freedoms to engage in local activities.

The federal Republic of Nigeria (1976) in 1976 local government Reform Handbook defined local government as “Government at the local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These powers should give council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal government in their areas, and to ensure, through devolution of functions to these councils and through the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, that local initiatives and response to local needs and conditions are maximised”. The above definition is deeply rooted and has alliance with United Nations” Office for Public Administration which explained local government as:

A political division of a nation (in federal system), state, which is constituted by law, and has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected.

In Nigeria local government is widely acknowledged as a viable instrument for rural transformation and for the delivery of social services to people. Local Government may be seen as “a segment of a constituent state or region of a nation state”, established by law to provide public service and regulate public affairs within its area of its jurisdiction (Ikelegbe, 2005). The above presupposes that it is the closest level to the people with powers to perform functions and mandate over its finances and manpower. While acknowledging its territorial and functional boundaries, some level of autonomy exists in relation to its functions.

It is on the strength of the above that (Ikelegbe, 2005) says that “it is government under the responsibility of the local people and in the interest of the local population by local representative bodies”. As King (1988) observed, the local government is universally found in modern polities, although it goes by various appellations. Its legitimacy lies on its “claim to represent the interests or wishes of the local inhabitants and to administer to their needs”. Founded on democratic ideals, it is required “that they be given an opportunity to control their affairs at this level, especially since this is the point at which their interests and welfare are most likely to be directly affected (King, 1988). Also, Ola (1984) identified three schools of thought in the functional conceptualization of the local government as a unit. The democratic- participatory school “holds that local government functions to bring about democracy and to afford opportunities for political participation to the citizen as well as to socialize him politically” This bothers on training and injection of democratic tenets in the grassroots. From the stand point of the efficiency- services school, the appropriate functional focus of local government should be the provision of services, and its success or failure has to be judged by this yardstick.

The third perspective is the developmental school. This school essentially seeks to make the local government a tool for the promotion of national consciousness and national integration (Ola, 1984).

Its emphasis is on political development which modernization theorists see as the breaking down of primordial loyalties and the transfer of such loyalties to the central and national development. It can act as a means of dispersing and localizing political tension, and in that way neutralising its impacts (Abutudu, 2011). As Ola (1984) puts it, by allowing local government to emphasise local interests and argue sectionally for parochial needs, a means is created for political letting off steam. A build-up of strong local feelings and sentiments without such a safety valves this can mean an unwitting build-up of local tension which when it explodes, might hurt not only the local system but the national as well.

Despite of the dispersal of perspectives on the functions of local government espoused by these schools of thought, its unambiguity lies in the various angles of the responsibilities expected of local government whether in developed or developing democracies. This has fulfilment in the „good governance“ concept.

2.1.1 Autonomy

The word “autonomy” comes from the Greek roots auto meaning “self” and nomos meaning “custom” or “law”. This reflects the political sense of the word – a group’s right to self-government or self-rule (Autonomy). It is important to note that there is a time in Nigeria’s post-colonial political history that local governments operated independent of both the state and federal governments, which is the crux of local government autonomy (Akpan & Okonette, 2013). The search for this kind of local government system has been mirage. On his issue, three contending perspectives have emerged. The first perspective interprets local government autonomy as independence from the interference of state government in the activities of local government. The second perspective views local government autonomy as non-interference of the federal government in the activities of local governments. The third perspective maintains that local government autonomy means independence from both state and federal government’s interference in the activities of local councils. This is the dilemma facing local government in Nigeria today (Akpan & Okonette, 2013).

Local Government autonomy is the freedom for the Local Governments to exercise authority within the confines of the law or constitution. This is to enable them to discharge legally or constitutionally assigned responsibilities satisfactorily, but without undue interference or restraint from within or higher authority. “Local Government autonomy is perceived as local self-government or grassroots democracy”. This grassroots democracy is primarily aimed at giving the vast majority of the people the fullest opportunity to participate in determining their own destiny. But it is obvious that we cannot have complete autonomous they would be sovereign states (Adeyemo, 2005). Nwabueze (1983 as cited in Nwabueze and Adeyemi (2005) defines the autonomy under a federal system to mean that “each government enjoys a separate existence and independence from the control of the other governments”. It is an autonomy which requires not just the legal and physical existence of an apparatus of government like a legislative assembly, governor, court etc. But that each government must exist not as an appendage of another government but as an autonomous entity in the sense of being able to exercise its own will in the conduct of its affairs and free

from the control of another government. According to Nwabueze, autonomy would only be meaningful in a situation whereby each level of government is not constitutionally bound to accept dictation or directive from another. In the view of the defunct centre for Democratic Studies (cited in Adeyemo (2005), local government autonomy refers to “the relative discretion which local government are free from the control of state and Federal Government encroachment in the management of local affairs. In the same vein, (Davey et al., 2013) contend that local autonomy is primarily concerned with the question of responsibilities, resources and discretion conferred on the local authorities. As such, discretion and responsibility are at the core of local government”. It presumes that local governments must possess the power to take decisions that are independent of external control within the limits laid down by the law. They must garner efficient resources particularly finance to meet their responsibilities, put differently, local autonomy is the freedom or independence in clearly defined issue, areas, as well as separate legal identity from other levels of government. Clark (1984) identifies four types of local autonomy:

- ❖ Type 1 Initiative and immunity
- ❖ Type 2 Initiative and no immunity
- ❖ Type 3 No initiative and immunity
- ❖ Type 4 NO initiative and no immunity

Type 1 autonomy could be characterized as complete or total autonomy. Type 2 autonomy allows local governments complete authority to regulate and legislate in their own interest, but makes every decision subject to review, modification, or outright negation by higher tiers. Type 3 autonomy provides no power of local initiative, implying that whatever local government do, their agendas, regulations, or even actions are set by higher tiers of the state. Type 4 autonomy could be characterized as absolutely no local autonomy. These typologies are lucidly described by Clark (1984) by paying attention to how each can be justified and what its relationships are to more general normative conception. A type 1 locality, characterized by both the power of initiative and immunity from higher tiers of the state, could be defining the arena of local autonomy and as watchdogs over the legitimacy of local actions. Local officials have discretions in how they act. The limits to action are imposed not by other institutions but by the local population. Hence, legitimacy derives from local citizens who have significant power.

The ideal type 2 can be described as decentralized liberalism. Local governments in this model decide their own agendas, functions and actions. They are democratic, although this is not required for the model to function. All that is required is that initiatives rests with the

local government, but discretion is not complete. Lack of immunity means that local actions are closely scrutinized and reviewed. Autonomy therefore is limited, but in a way different from the representative autonomy model. Legitimacy resides with the local government; its actions can only be constrained, and in this manner legitimacy flows from “bottom-up”.

The ideal type 3, that is immunity but no initiative, is related to the bureaucratic apparatus model of local autonomy. With no power of initiative, this model must respond to centrally defined functions and orders. Local residents cannot mandate specific tasks to be carried out by the local governments. Although it cannot choose what to do, once given a specific task, it can implement it in any way that is thought to be consistent with its tasks. Local constituents have power to affect the implementation practices of local and there may be significant differences among localities in how they implement tasks assigned by a higher order. The local state is representative of higher-tier interests and is responsive to local concern regarding appropriate forms of implementation. Legitimacy in this type of system is predominantly “top-down”; that is, higher tiers have ultimate responsibility for the actions of local governments. In type 4 model, the local state with no initiative and no immunity must be described as having no autonomy. Its agenda, actions and responses are set by higher tiers, and its compliance with instructions is continually monitored. Such local governments are essentially administrative arms or apparatuses of the higher tiers of the state. Such a local state will have no discretion; could not initiate legislation and would act according to received instructions. Both authority and responsibility for local actions are centralized. In this respect, legitimacy devolves from higher tiers to lower tiers, and depends on the extent to which lower tiers of the state faithfully carried out their instructions. The fact that local citizenry have no direct say in the affair of the local state does not necessarily mean that such system is undemocratic, it may simply be that political discourse is conducted at the higher tiers. The local state in such a system is simply a convenient vehicle for carrying out instructions.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

There are various theoretical and conceptual frame works on local government depending on the areas a writer or an author is viewing it from. Gboyega in Agagu (2012) is of the opinion that there exist two basic classes of theories of Local Government.

First Theory: **Democratic Theory** – This theory justified the existence and reason why local government would help democratic process in areas of administration which would bring responsiveness, accountability, control and good governance in local domain.

Second Theory: **Non – Democratic Theory** – This theory stressed that local government institutions are not democratic in their internal operations; and they have no responsiveness, accountability, control and good governance in their local domain. This system contradicts the purpose of a democratic regime.

Democracy: Chief Obafemi Awolowo (W. H. A. 1952) opined that Local Government is “a system of government where local councils make and accept responsibility for, and implement their own decisions subject only such control as may be exercised by the people through their own regional government”.

2.2.1 The Principle of Citizen –Cantered Local Governance: Theory

What suppose to be the functions of local government? Why did it come into existence? Theoretically, what are its objectives? Scholars do not have a consensus on this (Ola & Tonwe, 2004:175; Aransi and Adeyemi, 2012:6). Has explicitly stated thus:

There is no theory of local government. There is no normative general theory from which we can deduce what local government ought to be; there is no positive general theory from which we can derive testable hypothesis about what it is.

Despite this, several theories have been put forward to provide strong rationale for decentralized decision making and a strong role for local governments on the grounds of efficiency, accountability, manageability, and autonomy (Shah, 2006:3).

In formulating a theory on Local Government, Autonomy and Grassroots Development in Nigeria. Therefore this study is conducted within the context of citizen-centered local governance principle (theory).

According to Shah (2006:15-16), reforming the institution of local governance requires agreement on basic principles. Three principles are advanced to initiate such a discussion:

- (a) Responsive governance. This principle aims at governments to do the right things- that is, to deliver services consistent with citizen preferences.
- (b) Responsible governance. The government should also do it right – that is, manage its fiscal resources prudently. It should earn the trust of residents by working better and costing

less and by managing fiscal and social risks for the community. It should strive to improve the quality and quantity of access to public services. To do so, it needs to benchmark its performance with the best-performing local government.

(c) Accountable governance. A local government should be accountable to its electorate. It should adhere to appropriate safeguards to ensure that it serves the public interest with integrity. Legal and institutional reforms may be needed to enable local governments to deal with accountability between elections- reforms such as a citizen's character and a provision for recall of public officials.

A framework of local government that embodies these principles according to Shah (2006:15-16) is called citizen- centered governance. The distinguishing features of citizen-centered governance are the following:

- Citizen empowerment through a rights-based approach (direct democracy provisions, citizens' charter)
- Bottom-up accountability for results
- Evaluation of government performance as the facilitator of a network of providers by citizens as governors, taxpayers, and consumers of public services. The framework emphasizes reforms that strengthen the role of citizens as the principals and create incentives for government agents to comply with their mandates.

The commitment problem may be mitigated by creating citizen-centered local governance – by having direct democracy provisions, introducing governing for results in government operations, and reforming the structure of governance, thus shifting decision making closer to the people. Direct democracy provisions require referenda on major issues and large projects and citizens having the right to veto any legislation or government program. A governing for results framework requires government accountability to citizens for service delivery performance. Hence, citizens have a charter defining their basic rights as well as rights of access to specific standards of public services. Output-based intergovernmental transfers strengthen compliance with such standards and strengthen accountability and citizen empowerment (Shah, 2006:16).

2.3 Local Government Autonomy

Local Government Autonomy is a term that is much of the time utilized in both scholastic and popular discussions of local government; however, it is rarely conceptualized

in a careful way or been operationalized and subjected to empirical consequence (Wolman, 2008).

According to Chapman (2003) local government autonomy is the capacity to advance, explore, and create policies by local units. For this to be done, Bailey and Elliot (2009) posit that local authorities must have adequate power, freedom, and resources to administer in a way which is unique, meeting the specific needs of their citizenry and their prospects and acting as a stabilizer to the central administration. Secondly, the nature of local democratic system must be, such as to empower the involvement of individuals, allow the receptiveness of local institutions and expel perceived or actual interference from the central government.

2.3.1 Imperatives of Local Government

Local government sets the platform for candid participation of the general population at the grassroots level in the affairs of government. People get to be distinctly dynamic citizens by associating with government and don't entertain parochial citizenship within the state. being nearest to those they represent, easier to access and local individuals can genuinely anticipate making a positive impact or exerting a positive influence to a greater degree (Sikander, 2015).

Watt (2006) concisely gives what could be viewed as a support for the creation of smaller units of local through the process of decentralization. He opines that;

“Small local governments are likely to be better at solving the problem that the right local public goods are produced and go to the right people. In addition, the accuracy with which local authorities are able to match their residents' preferences for local public goods is likely to be enhanced” (pp. 9 – 10).

Sikander (2015) gives four distinct reasons for the establishment of Local Government. They are:

1. A local body is more open and faster in response to local needs. Local services and projects can be more effectively adjusted to a particular local need.
2. Resource allocation is more efficient when the duty is duly designated to each unit or tier of government which is the closest to those that are direct beneficiaries.
3. Local development helps reduce cost. In the event that local people feel that the money is theirs, local individuals will probably be vigilant over the use of expenditure effectively. Also, it gives greater opportunity for public commitments to supplement a local project.

4. Development programs embarked upon with participation from the public allows for adjustment to the particular needs of local people. Individuals are prepared to contribute meaningfully even by donating cash if they are given the chance to take control and actively participate in the decision making process if they know that the particular project directly benefits them. Improvement of local people builds feeling of possession and obligation regarding the program.

From the aforementioned, the fundamental basis for the establishment of local government is development. To this end, Alao et al (2015) posit that local government presence is predicated on the precept that it increments and advances participatory democracy and serve as training ground for would-be leaders and provide network of self-government and political education at grass root levels. This as Tony (2011) cited in Ugwuanyi, Ndubuisi, and Onuoha, (2014) observes, the role of local units is intended to enhance democratic developmental oriented. They all, in fact, are focused at enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the grassroots individuals.

2.3.2 Legal Framework for Local Government in Nigeria

For decentralization to be effective, local government should be given the requisite authority and independence. To this end, the 2013 Draft Local Government Act could serve as the legal framework that will allow the effective implementation of the National Decentralization Policy of Nigeria. This Act seems to be the paramount legal document drafted in Nigeria to facilitate complete devolution of administrative, fiscal and political capacities to local sub-national units. Similarly as the policy, the Act came into existence after a consultative, nation-wide process promulgated by the Local Government Service Commission with support from the Ministry of Interior of Nigeria, the Law Reform Commission and other development partners. This made the process more authentic as citizens and their elected representatives actively engaged in dialogues and workshops (Draft Local Government Act, 2013).

A fascinating development is that those line ministries and agencies that might directly relinquish their power to local units were also engaged with the process of drafting the Act. Among several provisions, the Act allows a system of inclusive governance with women affirmative action, prioritization of minority groups including the physically challenged are at the apex. While critics have expressed their opinion that the Act is overly ambitious and could further lead Nigeria to a federation, the Act itself is explicit about the affirmation of the

key constitutional principles that Nigeria remains a federation state. It additionally articulates that decentralization in Nigeria should not be considered as leaning towards a federal state. The Act reaffirmed that some key functions, particularly those relating to security, judiciary foreign affairs, and regulatory frameworks among others remain at the disposition of the central government (Draft Local Government Act, 2013).

2.4 Constitutional Framework for Democratic and Autonomous Local Government in Nigeria

The 1976 Guidelines for Local Government Reforms was designed to end extensive experimentation with different theories and patterns of local government by various state governments (Gboyega, 2001). Ogunna (1996:146) underscores some of the significances of the reforms as follows:

- i. It is the first time in the political history of Nigeria when the federal government initiated local government reform for all the state government in Nigeria;
- ii. A uniform system was introduced for all the states of the federation;
- iii. Local governments started to be recognized as a third tier of government, with its attendant implications;
- iv. The articulation and institutionalization of the nature of local government expected, including local democracy, number, names, functions, funding etc;
- v. Institutionalization of statutory allocations to local governments.

Okoli (1998) describes the 1976 reform guidelines as the first bold attempt at realizing the national objective of unity and integration as envisaged by the Federal Government, which also hoped by so doing to protect the system from the states' stifling controls. The provisions of 1976 reforms were transcribed into the 1976 Constitution used by the military to midwife the Second Democratic Republic (1979 to 1983) and thereafter retained in subsequent editions of 1989 and 1999. Some key provisions concerning the local government system as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution include;

- i. Establishment of democratically elected Local Government Councils (LGCs) in chapter one, Part II, Section 7);
- ii. Provision of a complex procedure for creating new local governments by both the State House of Assembly and the National Assembly (section 83; 5; 6);
- iii. Provision of names of states and their local government (Part I and II of the First Schedule) making it difficult to create local governments without constitutional amendments;

- iv. Provision of basic functions for the local governments in the Fourth Schedule;
- v. Provision that Statutory Allocation from the Federation Account shall be made to the local government and details of how this should be made by the National Assembly through the State Joint Local Government Account (162:3, 5, 6);
- vi. Provision that each state shall pay to LGCs in its area of jurisdiction such proportions of its total revenue on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the National Assembly (162:7);
- vii. Provision that amount standing to the credit of LGCs of a State shall be distributed among the LGCs on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly of the State (162:8).

From the above, it can be observed that constitutional democratically elected LGCs and relative financial and administrative autonomy are provided for the local government and protected in such a way that their existence, names, type of government to be established (democracy), funding and so on derive from the Constitution, rather than another level of government as Watt, (1996) stipulates that parties to a federal arrangement should. Nonetheless, the implication has been some kind of ambivalence in the control of local government that manifests the underlying centripetal and centrifugal tensions between the federal and state forces in Nigerian federalism. For instance, while the constitution provides for the existence of “democratically elected local government”, the onus of realizing this lies with the state legislation since it provides that “the government of every state shall ensure their existence under a law” (Sect. 7).

Similarly, though states are empowered to create new local governments (Sect. 8, 3), the National Assembly has to “make consequential provisions with respect to the names and headquarters of State or Local government areas as provided in section 3 of this Constitution and in parts I and II of the First Schedule to this Constitution” (sect. 8, 5). Thus, in the case of creating new Local Governments by any state, the returns of such new local government should be made to the National Assembly and will necessarily lead to modification of the constitution. Invariably, the constitutional provisions on local government clearly remove the local government system in Nigeria from being creations of the state governments. But this ploy has not led to the desired autonomy and local democracy. Therefore, why has the problem of abuse and disregard of such provisions by many state governments over the years been persistent in Nigeria despite opportunities to either modify or strengthen the provisions in subsequent revisions of the Nigerian Constitution? Why has the fate of local government as third tier, freestanding democratically constituted level of government been uncertain for

30 years since the 1976 reforms that introduced it, in spite of consistent retention in subsequent Constitutions of the country?

2.5 The Bane of Local Government Development:

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended in Section 7 guarantees the creation and the autonomy on Local Government. Section 7 (2): The person authorized by law to prescribe the area over which a Local Government Council may exercise authority shall:

- a. Define such area as clearly as practicable; and
- b. Ensure, to the extent to which it may be reasonably justifiable, that in defining such area regard is paid to;
 - 1. The common interest of the community in the area
 - 2. Traditional association of the community, and
 - 3. Administrative convenience.

Section 7(3): It shall be the duty of Local Government Council within the state to participate in economic planning and development of the area referred to in subsection (2) of this section and to this end an economic planning board shall be established by a law enacted by the House of Assembly of the State. Section 7(4): The Government of a state shall ensure that every person who is entitled to vote or be voted for at an election to a House of Assembly shall have the right to vote or to vote for at an election to a Local Government Council. Section 7(5): The functions to be conferred by law upon Local Government Councils shall include those set out in the Fourth Schedule to this Constitution. Section 7(6): Subject to the provisions of this Constitution:

- a. The National Assembly shall made provisions for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils in the Federation; and
- b. The House of Assembly of a state shall make provisions for statutory allocation of public revenue to Local Government Councils within the state.

2.5.1 Critical Analysis of the 1999 Constitution as Amended

A critical analysis of the 1999 Constitution reveals the following:
Autonomy exists in some areas such as:

1. Section 3 (6) provides that there shall be seven hundred and sixty eight (768) and six (6) area councils totaling seven hundred and seventy four (774) local government areas in Nigeria.
2. Section 7 (1) guarantees that there should be separate existence of the local government councils as an autonomous tier of government.
3. Section 7 (6) Mandates both the Federal and State Government to make separate provisions out of the Federation account and State income respectively available to the local councils.

2.5.2 Autonomy Exist in Main Functions of Local Government

Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), in 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended in its fourth schedule, section 7 sub sections 1 and 2 clearly spelt out the functions of local government as follows:

1. The consideration and the making of recommendations to a State Commission on economic planning or any similar body on
 - i. The economic development of the State, particularly in so far as the areas of authority of the council of the State are affected, and
 - ii. Proposals made by the said commission or body;
 - a. Collection of rates, radio and television licenses;
 - b. Establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for the destitute or infirm;
 - c. Licensing of bicycles, trucks (other than mechanically propelled trucks), canoes, wheel barrows and carts;
 - d. Establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets, motor parks and public conveniences;
 - e. Construction and maintenance of roads, street lightings, drains and other public highways, parks dens, open spaces, or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the House of Assembly of a State;
 - f. Naming of roads and streets and numbering of houses;
 - g. Provision of maintenance of public convenience, sewage and refuse disposal;
 - h. Registration of all births, deaths and marriages;
 - i. Assessment of privately owned houses or tenements for the purpose of levying such rates as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly of a State; and

- j. Control and regulation of – Out-door advertising and hoarding, Movement and keeping of pets of all description, shops and kiosks, Restaurants, bakeries and other places for sale of food to the public, laundries, and Licensing, regulation and control of the sale of liquor.
2. Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 also states that: The functions of a local government council shall include participation of such council in the Government of a State as respects the following matters:
- i. The provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education;
 - ii. The development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation materials;
 - iii. The provision and maintenance of health services, and
 - iv. Such other functions as may be conferred on a local government council by the House of Assembly of the State.

2.6 Local Governance

Local governance is considered as the delineation of geo-political locales and administrative environments into smaller that are seen to be closer to local communities. The two essential parts of a local government framework include:

Discretion: Permits the local government to engage in significant functions that gives them the authorization to represent the proclivities of the citizens in the decision (World-Bank, 2004). The main focus of development planning in any given society is to enhance the livelihood and improve the overall-well-being of the citizens in a suitable way. In this manner, to successfully play out its role, local communities need to exercise government of inclusion. Local governance takes into account the provision of regulatory socio-economic institutions, underscores locality, and accountability to local individuals (Olowu, 1989). Participation of local citizens is germane as far as leading and directing community affairs in local governance is concerned. It promotes democracy by;

- i. Building the capacity of locals politically
- ii. Producing and developing leaders at the local level and
- iii. Providing a kind of check and balance vertically and horizontally to ensure accountability and transparency (Olowu, 1989).

There is a high premium placed on local governance by donor agencies because of its perceived to some extend demonstrated importance to poverty eradication and development;

obviously gravitating toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (World Bank, 2004).

2.6.1 Local Government Autonomy and Decentralization

Local government autonomy involves sets of institutions, systems and procedures through which citizens explain their interests and needs, reconcile their disparities, and exercise their rights and duties at the local level. The building blocks of good local administration are numerous; citizens' participation, partnership among key actors at the local level, capacity of local across all sectors, multiple flows of information, institutions of accountability, and a pro-poor orientation (UNDP, 2004). At the point when viable decentralization and local government progress simultaneously, local governments and the groups they represent, gain the authority, assets, and skills to take responsive decisions and to follow up on them successfully and accountably. Advancing the capacity of local government to act adequately and accountably requires promoting a responsive civil society, organizations and individuals to assume the responsibility for their communities, participate in local need setting, aid the execution of those decision, and then monitor their viability (USAID, 2010).

2.7 The Concept of Development

Development is a concept that poses some difficulties as far as providing a holistic meaning. It is extremely elusive and hard to conceptualize because it is associated with an extensive interpretation (Oyugi, 2000) as cited in (Hussein, 2004). Substantiating this statement, Hussein (2004) advance that most Nigerian economists define development in terms of various indicators-increase in the Gross National Product or per capita income of a country. For welfare economist, development encapsulates organizational and structural changes and associate development with meeting up with public welfare and the achievement of objectives like rising net salary, poverty reduction, unemployment and social disparity.

In another unique circumstance, Venter (2001) as referred to by Edom and Jahed (2009) posit that development is related to modernization, which include the attainment of services, including clean and safe water, health, education, good roads, and the level of citizen interest embraces a more extensive perspective of development that go beyond economic growth and material changes and incorporate human attitude with respect to a spirit of enhanced human capacity development, and mass citizen participation in the decision-

making process. Development from this viewpoint is seen as a process of mass social action in which local citizens organize, plan and take progressive action in collaboration with central government to enhance the political and socio-economic conditions of their respective locality (Sharma, 2000).

Whereas traditional development strategies have relied on national framework and on the abilities of central government authorities, the success of development at the local level depends, to an large degree, on the subsistence of suitable local institutional frameworks and on the accessibility of the essential systems and skill-levels at all government levels. Without a well-functioning decentralized local authority, grassroots development is not achievable (Olsen, 2007). Along these lines, the focus of development is generally concerned with ensuring that the social well-being of individuals is paramount and should be reflected in the life of the individual rather than quantitative economic growth or the state of the economy.

2.8 The Concept of Decentralization

As Fagyet (2011) observes decentralization stands out amongst the most imperative reforms of the past era, both as the quantity of nations influenced and the possibly profound ramifications for the nature and quality of governance. As decentralization has advanced, the political science writing on its outcomes has developed quickly and a reasonable split has turned out to be clear. The adherents of decentralization draw from local government or fiscal federalism theories. They contend that decentralization lead to more elevated amounts of political interest. Responsibility, and administrative and fiscal effectiveness (Falleti, 2004). This, in any case, does not demonstrate that decentralization is a panacea for administrative viability. Contending despite what might be expected. Rodden and Wibbels in 2002 argued that decentralization promotes constant bail-out from central government due to budget shortfalls of local units, an unstable economy and over-extensions of bureaucratic processes. In spite of the fact that there is no agreement on the positives of negatives of decentralization; however, an explanatory examination of the aftereffects of decentralization across nations uncovers that, regardless of the execution of clearly comparable changes, their effect on the dispersal of power among levels of government varies significantly generally from one country to the next (Falleti, 2004).

The term decentralization is broad to the point that it will be hard to concoct only one basic definition. The term include diverse thoughts and ideas that are assembled. Decentralization for the most part alludes to either the condition of being decentralized or the

way toward turning out to be so (Treisman, 2002). Decentralization, practically speaking, is complex to the point that it has a few measurements and elucidations at various levels and by various scholars. However, there is a common theme resonating with all the definitions-the giving or redistribution of some power.

As per an UNDP working paper (1999), decentralization indicates the rearrangement or predisposition of power so that there is system of collaboration between the various tiers of government.

Kauzya (2005) viewed decentralization as an approach of high need that gives the stage to empowerment, sustainable democratization, and the mobilization of resources for economic advancement. It is an extremely helpful instrument that can accommodate and coordinate individuals socio-economically and a vehicle that advances political, civic and administrative good governance.

2.8.1 Types of Decentralization

There is an overall pattern toward the expansion and transmission of power, resources and obligations to the lower levels of governments. Both federal and unitary countries, irrespective of it being developed or in the process of developing, are gravitating toward more decentralization (Sharma, 2005). As per Fleuke (2004) position, the effect of decentralization varies depending on design, which will rely upon the political structure and regulatory issues of the nation. He has distinguished the kinds of decentralization to be political, administrative, fiscal, and market/economic decentralization.

2.8.2 Political Decentralization

Political decentralization of devolution entails the complete transfer of political power, authority and resources to a lawfully authorized and independent lower tier of government with attending administrative and fiscal dimensions. Political decentralization is expected to give more power to locals through their locally elected representative in public decision making at the local level (World Bank, 2014). Furthermore, Political Decentralization occurs when power and authority are devolved to authorities that are accountable and representative of those at the local level. Political Decentralization means to build open investment in local leadership (Ribot, 2002). School as who advanced political decentralization believe that when citizens collaboratively engaged in decision making, there is a high level of cooperation among distinct interest groups than those that are made singularly by national political authorities (Rondinelli, 1999).

However, a successful political decentralization is accompanied by constitutional reforms, improvement of multi-dimensional, wholesome functioning political parties, reinforcement of governing bodies, formation of local political sub units, and providing the enabling environment for robust and vibrant interest groups (NPDLG, 2011).

2.8.3 Administrative Decentralization

In administrative decentralization, policies are instituted to transfer local government processes and capacities from the central government to a local administration (Awortwi, 2010). Elucidating further Fatile and Ejalonibu (2015), see administrative decentralization as a process that concedes some functions particularly from the executive branch of government of a state to local authorities; however, the intention is not for those local authorities to decide autonomously on major issues. Legally, local authorities remain under the full control of the state and are seen as political sub-units.

This is the type of decentralization more visible in Nigeria. The principle administrative unit of local government for the purpose of effecting administrative decentralization is the country. Decentralization as devolution is in this manner a prime political change as it is projected to bring power nearer to where the greater part of individuals dwell with the goal that they are better ready to take an interest in active participation and decision making, which is the identifying mark of any democratic system of administration (USAID, 2012).

Rondinelli (1999) identified three distinct types of administrative decentralization to include: deconcentration, delegation and devolution.

Deconcentration is a type of decentralization that considers the redistribution of national regulatory duties through field administrative units far from the capital (Yajah, 2014). Generally, as Khumalo (2015) declares, the functions of central government authorities are moved toward sub-level of government including states and regions. Generally, the administration is supervised by a central government authority.

Delegation includes transfer of basic leadership and administration to management and organization, which are not necessarily under direct control of a national office. Under delegation, central government capacities are transferred to public corporation, regional planning areas or local development authorities (Yajah, 2014).

Devolution alludes to the establishment of independent units of government to which the central government surrender certain functions. These units of government exercise some

freedom and practice self-sufficiency inside their scope of operation (Khumalo, 2015). White in 2011 contended that devolution is the purest type of decentralization as government units have well-defined boundaries limits as far as law and geographic areas are concerned. Central government transferred authority for basic leadership and authoritative administration to semi-independent or quasi-autonomous units of Local Government. In devolution, there are beneficial and organize connections between the local and central government.

2.8.4 Market or Economic Decentralization

Market Decentralization is a core part of reform projects geared toward limiting the role of the state and expanding the market. “Institutional projects coordinated by the World Bank ascended from 469 in the 1980sto 3,235 in the 2000s” (Erk, 2015). Indeed, even after the 2008 economic meltdown and its attending monetary downturn, market decentralization reforms have proceeded on an upward trajectory. New development projects since the 2008 economic downturn have incorporated some form of institutional reforms (Andrews, 2014).

2.8.5 Fiscal Decentralization

Fiscal decentralization occurs when there are sets of policies configurations to expand the revenue or fiscal independence of local sub-units of governments. Fiscal decentralization adopts diverse institutional structures such that there is an incremental transfers from the central government, the enforcement of new sub-national taxes, or the designation of tax authorities that was previously national (Falleti, 2005).

According to Pru’Homme (2003), fiscal decentralization includes four approaches to increase fiscal independence of local government.

- i. Consumption task plainly depicting the central governments and local government obligations regarding giving and paying to particular administrations to nationals;
- ii. Income task outlining assessable income sources and expense raising forces between the central governments and local governments and perhaps making another sub-national duty to reinforce the fiscal capacities of LGs and give them authority to choose how to spend their income;
- iii. Inter-governmental strategy empowering a central government to transfer financial resources as grants to local governments; and
- iv. Regulatory policies to screen and set cutoff points on local governments.

2.8.6 African Perspective of Decentralization

Decentralization in Africa is not a new reform program. Its application dates as far back as the foundation of the African continent. Both English speaking and French speaking African countries experienced various forms of decentralization before and after independence (Ahwoi, 2000). Disappointing advancement in achieving national objectives through an archaic centralized process compelled many developing countries to get involve in development activities that consider a ‘top-down’ approach that had never been experienced before. Urgent socio-economic, political and technological transformation has fueled the pattern to depend all the more intensely on lower tiers of government for public sector development (Kiwanuka, 2012).

The wanton failure resulting from decades of centralized planning fueled the financial, economic and political crises in the 1980s. This brought about the decline of state resources which thusly increase the demand for institutional, political and socio-economic inclusion and reforms. Nations like Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia decided on a decentralization policy as a move intended for abrogating systems of racial isolation and segregation in the conveyance of the ‘national cake’ (Devas, 2004). While there was no direct evidence that decentralization would be successful, there was adequate information demonstrating that decades of centralized planning had been unsuccessful. The theoretical justification for tilting towards decentralization is that exchange of some central government authorities, resources, obligations, and responsibility to sub-national governments enables local institutions and associations to embrace more powerful self-administration and advancement fitting to local conditions (Awotwi, 2010).

2.8.7 Growing Trends towards Decentralization in Sub Saharan Africa

From the colonial period many African nations embraced and adopted a more centralized systems of governance that created numerous social incompatibilities. Recently, however, a number of endeavours have been made by many African nations to restructure the state through decentralization.

In recent years, the increasing pattern towards decentralization in sub-Saharan African has been unequivocally supported by many African nations as one method for tending to the social disparity and the unevenness in power relations that have turned out to be normal in many parts of the continent (Kauzya, 2007). As a major aspect of effort to structure or better still rebuild governments to advance inclusive and viable public administrative systems,

responsibility, and regulatory framework, decentralization is progressively being adopted and applied in many sub-Saharan African nations including. Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone (Awortwi 2010). This is as a result of World Bank and International Monetary Fund structural adjustment policies which now identify the important and meaningful role local government or sub national units play in development effort (World Bank, 2000). In the meantime, scholars have advanced decentralization as a response to the disappointments of ‘over-centralized’ states following the financial emergency of the 1970s. The initiation and subsequent implementation of structural adjustments reforms in the 1980s and 1990s of the state which was generally seen to have failed or collapsed (Wunsch and Olowu, 1995). Decentralization is expected to promote greater government accountability and citizens’ participation in public affairs by expanding the political space thereby strengthening the legitimacy of the state (Bardhan and Mookherjee, 2006).

2.8.8 Necessity for Decentralization in Modern Governance

There is global tendency toward increasing transfer of power, resources and responsibilities to the lower levels of government. Both federal and unitary nations, regardless of whether industrialized or in the process of doing so are moving toward more decentralization, decentralization may take the form of more local self-governance to sub-levels with respect to the central control or could suggest a move from appointment to election of sub-national government authorities subsequently handling to these levels the functions of administration in the form of (Sharma, 2014).

A number of countries around the globe have adopted some type of decentralization. A significant number of these nations are decentralizing in light of the fact that they trust it can help enhance financial development or decrease poverty in rural areas particularly since most centralized governments, for quite a while, were unable to render efficient service and expedite economic development. A survey conducted in the early 2000’s in over 75 developing and transitional countries with estimated population of not less than five million found that as low as only 12 had not taken on some form of decentralization (Awortwi, 2010). Decentralization mandates politicians to compete, prompting a more grounded local democracy, political accountability, and accordingly, citizen’s control over resources (Dreher and Fischer, 2010).

As Schneider (2003) puts it, Decentralization essentially alters the governance structure by moving the local functions from central government to local constituents, and furthermore

by changing the geographic locale of political contestation and by modifying the relative power of different actors and by changing the area of government interaction with society.

Furthermore, Frey and Luechinger (2004) contend that to a vast degree, decentralized nations are more stable politically and administrative than more centralized states, have more proficient markets and give less significant typical focuses acts of terrorists.

Contentions for decentralization are centered on the presumption that greater cooperation in decision making can enhance effectiveness, parity, and development and also significantly increase accountability and resource management in the public sector. Essentially, decentralization is viewed as a reasonable process for transforming political governance with the end result of allowing everybody to participate equally in matters concerning them. Ribot (2004) posits that decentralization is a system of administration that encourages exchanges of power nearer to the individuals most influenced by the application of power. Additionally, Tendler (2000) believes that decentralization can enhance service delivery on grounds that other institutions can supplement central government's inefficiencies with respect to the aforementioned. It is likewise assumed that if the whole course of action is based on trust and organized well; decentralization with its attending inclusive approach could enhance processes and appropriation equally (Hadenius, 2003).

Regardless of the considerable number of contentions and counter contentions for and against decentralization, policy articulators appear to be willing to advance it in many nations (Smoke, 2003). Dumbuya (2005), (as referred to in Yajah, 2014) affirms that civil society gets to be distinctly empowered with a viable decentralization program. Opportunities for grassroots development are upgraded with a strong local government capacity which is realistic when decentralization is enforced.

2.8.9 Arguments for and Against Decentralization

Decentralization is often depicted as an appreciated administrative reform expected to enhance effectiveness and equity of resources allocation and to advance participation and empowerment of local individuals. The success of decentralization depends, however, on the circumstances in a country, the design of the decentralization process and the institutional courses of action regarding its implementation (Cabral, 2011).

The viciousness of the contentions for and against decentralization highlights the political nature of the decision. What is most likely more intriguing than the arguments for and against decentralization is building up a comprehension of the issues that it is attempting to

solve. In many countries, this is about how a range of service can be available to local populace-effectively cooperating to meet the needs of local population (Bremner, 2011). Smoke (2003) contends that decentralization is not characteristically positive or negative and suggest that any talk about decentralization begins from an unbiased point of view. Moreover, White (2011) contends that in spite of the fact that decentralization has been commended as a key reform that drives development and improvement, it additionally is a mind boggling process with a number of vulnerabilities.

Incidentally, it appears that the key contentions of enhancing efficiency and reinforcing democracy are utilized by both sides of the debates. Achieving allocative efficiency is cited as a reason to remain centralized with a specific end goal to take into consideration the appropriation of resources across a national population as indicated by need. Nonetheless, it is likewise frequently contended that decentralization, which would bring the planning and prioritization of services to a lower level, allow for a more sensitive local mechanism to target population with the most prominent needs (Bremner, 2011). Another contentious argument is that decentralization increased the fiscal capacity of local units; however, it is often accompanied by fiscal incongruities.

There is sufficient reliance that significant political or administrative decentralization can build-up fiscal capacities as well as fiscal differences between administrative units and local government. Local governments vary enormously in their capacity to generate income; subsequently, dependence on local sources will without regulated central government transfers raise disparities (Hofman and Kaiser, 2002). There should be a level of balance wherein some local units won't become extremely strong, making it to opt for secession or another unit becoming too destitute to operate as an autonomous unit, thereby defeating the genuine expectation of decentralization.

2.8.10 Potential Benefits of Decentralization

Manor (2003) points out that although political arguments for decentralization have been advanced for a reasonable period, the accentuation as of late has been on economic arguments. Developing agencies, among others, have tended to concentrate on the advantages of decentralization for service delivery. Decentralization is at the top of a range of reforms geared toward improving service delivery by increasing the level of accountability. Under a centralized administration, citizen's needs to advance their interest regularly to central authority for better delivery of services which in some cases prompt a

reaction from the authorities involved. Decentralization makes it less demanding by bringing those involved with making policy closer to the public. This gives locals the platform to express their demands for services to the central authority, and also make them better able to keenly monitor the performance of those bureaucrats and politicians responsible to them. Additionally, those engaged in policy making can more readily supervise those under their authority especially at the frontlines of providing services (World Bank, 2004).

There are several examples and experiences wherein decentralization reforms have played a pivotal role in promoting basic service delivery including the doubling of students' enrollment and improvement in gaining access to basic sanitation in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil; the 16 municipalities in Columbia where the provision of education, good water and road infrastructure were improved (Pranab, 2002).

2.9 Improve Accountability

As Campos and Hellman (2005) observed, accountability is expected to advance in tandem with decentralization because it promotes high level of political competition and the public ability to checkmate their elected officials also enhance performance and dwarfed corruption. However, these beneficial outcomes can be hampered by some of the risks accompanying decentralization wherein some powerful local elites could use the opportunity to solidify their grip on power prompting more or less an inevitable siege of the state.

CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Methodology shows the techniques and approaches of collecting data. This section elaborated on the research design, the population of the study and the sample size. Also, the data collection instruments will be provided and the method that the study will adopt for analysis of data.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted a survey design. The survey method was adopted because this involved an organized gathering and presentation of data to give a concise representation of a given situation. The approach was adopted because it created the opportunity for the researcher to narrate a given circumstance, within a defined period and place, given a significant amount of detailed information. Furthermore, the survey approach was considered because the study also centered around the attitudes and insights of the authorities and people on the concept of decentralization and local government autonomy and its implementation in Nigeria. Consequently, the importance of primary data cannot be over emphasized in this research work when collecting and analyzing questionnaires.

3.3 Population of the Study

Nweke (1983) defines population as an aggregate of elements which the sample is actually selected by the group in which conclusion is drawn. The total population of the staff of Saki West Local Government of Oyo State is Four Hundred and Twenty (420) with the following departments.

DEPARTMENT/MINISTRY	POPULATION
Administrative	280
Finance	210
Establishment and Training	168
Commercial and Industry	240
Human Resources	160
Economic	124
Total	1,182

The total population of sampling techniques is 1,182

However, the local government autonomy process in Nigeria requires the involvement of different actors and those actors will play a very important role in providing the necessary data the researcher intends to gather from this study. Therefore, the target population for the study was purposely selected from Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sample size is the total number of respondents selected for study out of total population of the study Kumar (2008). Sampling is defined as a population. A sample selected, is selected for the purpose of making an estimate direct population from which it is selected from all the department named above is about one hundred and seventy (170) all the respondent of 170 are to serve as targeted sample size of the study. To ensure that sample are not biased, stratified sampling method was employed to collect data.

Yamane (2004) provides a simplified formula to calculate sample size as shown below

$$N_h = \frac{n_h}{N} \times n$$

N = Total number
 n = sampling size
 N = 1,182
 n = 170

$$\text{Administrative} = \frac{280}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 40.2$$

$$= 40$$

$$\text{Finance} = \frac{210}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 30.2$$

$$= 30$$

$$\text{Establishment and Training} = \frac{168}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 24.1$$

$$= 24$$

$$\text{Commercial and Industry} = \frac{160}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 23.0$$

$$= 23$$

$$\text{Human Resource} = \frac{124}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 17.8$$

$$= 18$$

$$\text{Economic} = \frac{240}{1,182} \times 170$$

$$= 34.5$$

$$= 35$$

$$n = 40 + 30 + 24 + 23 + 18 + 34$$

$$n = 170$$

To survey the one hundred and seventy (170) 6 department, both senior and junior staff. A sampling frame was obtained, the sampling frame therefore allowed the adoption of simple random sampling.

DEPARTMENT	POPULATION	RESULT
Administrative	280	40
Finance	210	30
Establishment and Training	168	24
Commercial and Industry	240	23
Human Resources	160	18
Economic	124	34
Total	1,182	170

3.6 Sources of Data

Primary Sources of Data Collection: These include all sources adopted by the researcher to gather relevant information through personal effort. These include interview, personal observation and the use of questionnaire to respondents in the selected counties. The researcher also conducted face to face interview with the Senior Policy Analyst at the Governance Commission, Mr. Henrique Wilson. The researcher also used personal observation while interviewing and administering the questionnaire and interview.

Secondary Sources of Data Collection: Secondary data was collected from government documents, international report on the decentralization and local government

3.7 Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability is the extent to which repeatable measurement remain consistent even when different persons carry out the measurement on different occasions and conditionality or with apparently different persons carry out the measurement on different occasions and conditionality or with apparently different instrument (Drost, 2011). The researcher conducted a pilot test to ensure the reliability of the instrument. One Hundred and Twenty Six (126) respondents were targeted from using questionnaire in Saki West Local Government of Oyo State.

3.8 Method of data Collection

For any research project to be carried out Hoper (2006) stated that data information must be collected.

In administrative department, data collected is 40, finance 30, establishment and training 24, commercial and industry 23, human resources 18 and economic is 34.

3.9 Source of Data

The data for the work were obtained from both primary and secondary source which will provide all the necessary and reliable information needed as far as this research is concerned.

The sources include the following;

1. Primary source: This source will provide immediate information; this means of obtaining this information is through the following.

- i. Questionnaire: This is one of the major sources of data collection used in this project. A set of answer could be supplied in other to have basic analysis.
 - ii. Hypothesis: This is another sources of data collection used in this project. It gives the researcher the opportunity to have the observed and not observe and not observed hypothesis.
2. Secondary source: This source provides secondary information which related to the research study, a means that researcher gathered some relevant information from various textbooks, Newspaper, internet and lecture note which included the 2010 National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance and the Draft Local Government Act of 2013 journals relatives to the study, newspaper articles, books and internet resources..

A test/re A test technique helps so much to attain the reliability of the questionnaire and hypothesis. 170 questionnaires will be distributed, 170 questionnaires will distributed to each department in Saki-West local government. Most of the respondents who have earlier completed the questionnaire were asked to complete it again as part of the standardization of the questionnaire to avoid mistakes.

3.10 Instrument of the Study

Questionnaire was the main data-gathering instrument of this study. Structured closed ended questions were administered to respondents with the option of choosing from a five point scale including agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree and undecided. The questionnaires were arranged into three sections. Section one was labeled introduction where the respondents were duly informed about the purpose of the study. Section two solicited personal information from the respondents which included the name, place of residence, level of education and area of work. Questions from the last section considered responses from respondents on questions drawn from the objectives of the study. The total number of questions posed to respondent was 170 Interview was also used as an instrument of the study. The researcher conducted unstructured interview using notepads to record information that were provided. The reason for using unstructured interview was to solicit sufficient information on wide range of issues relative to the study. Through personal observation, the researcher obtained valuable firsthand information while administering the questionnaire and the interview.

3.11 Validity and Reliability of Instrument

To ascertain the validity of this instrument used for the study, the drafted questionnaires will be given to the entire (6) departments in Saki West Local Government. They will go through the research purpose and the questionnaire items and made useful suggesting (5 point Linkert scale. SA,A,U,D,SD).

3.12 Method of Data Analysis

Most of this questionnaire were pre-coded before administration if facilities easy tabulation and analysis. Coded data on responses were feed into the computer based program, statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 20 for display and analysis. The study generated figures, frequencies, percentages and table to show results of the data analysis. Descriptive analysis (percentages and frequencies) means and standard deviation for discussion, the key variables involved in the study. The techniques used during the data and analysis include non-parametric tool like spea man-rank test, the study also utilized cross tab method.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with presentation, description and analysis of data collected from the sample studies. The result represent the answers by the respondents to the questionnaire and interviews. Data obtained from these are shown with the aids of table. Respondent are grouped according to their reactions to each of the questions and their percentage computed against total sample size. It is also in this chapter the hypothesis earlier formulated in chapter one will be tested.

4.2 Analysis and Interpretation of Research Question

Reliability of the Questionnaire

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.748	19

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

Decision:

Reliability of Questionnaire: it must up to 70.00. and is .748 i.e 74.8(is reliable).In evaluating the survey constructs, reliability test was done. Reliability test is said to examine the degree to which individual items used in a construct are consistent with their measures. The widely used Cronbach's coefficient alpha was employed to assess internal consistency.

TABLE 1

Sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
MALE	128	75.3	75.3	75.3
FEMALE	42	24.7	24.7	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The table shows that 75.3% representing 128 respondents is MALE and 24.7% representing 42 respondents is FEMALE.

TABLE 2

Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BELOW 25 YEARS	20	11.8	11.8	11.8
Valid 25-35 YEARS	84	49.4	49.4	61.2
36-45 YEARS	66	38.8	38.8	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The table shows that 11.8% representing 20 respondents is BELOW 25 YEARS, 49.4% representing 84 respondents is 25-35 YEARS and 38.8 representing 66 respondents is 36-45 YEARS.

TABLE 3

Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SINGLE	125	73.5	73.5	73.5
Valid MARRIED	45	26.5	26.5	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The tables shows 73.5% representing 125 respondents is SINGLE and 26.5% representing 45 respondents is MARRIED.

TABLE 4**Academic Qualification**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SSCE	27	15.9	15.9	15.9
ND/NCE	76	44.7	44.7	60.6
HND/BS	43	25.3	25.3	85.9
Valid C				
MSC/MB	24	14.1	14.1	100.0
A				
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The tables shows 15.9% representing 27 respondents SSCE and 44.7% representing 76 respondents ND/NCE, 25.3% representing 43 respondents HND/BSC and 14.1% representing 24 respondents MSC/MBA

TABLE 5**Staff Grade**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SENIOR STAFF	85	50.0	50.0	50.0
INTERMEDIA				
Valid TED	27	15.9	15.9	65.9
JUNIOR STAFF	58	34.1	34.1	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The tables shows 50.0% representing 85 respondents SENIOR STAFF and 15.9% representing 27 respondents INTERMEDIATED, 34.1% representing 58 respondents JUNIOR STAFF.

TABLE 6**Working Experience**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1-5YEARS	26	15.3	15.3	15.3
11-15YEARS	119	70.0	70.0	85.3
16-20YEARS	25	14.7	14.7	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

The tables shows 15.3% representing 26 respondents 1-5YEARS and 70.0% representing 119 respondents 11-15YEARS, 14.7% representing 25 respondents 16-20YEARS.

TABLE 7

**Is there any Justification for the Establishment of Local Government at
The Grassroots Level in Nigeria.**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that there substantial for justification the establishment of local government at the grassroots level in Saki West local government at the grass root level in Saki West local government.

TABLE 8

**Local Government Autonomy Enhances Graaroots Development in Saki
West Local Government**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
AGREE	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.1% representing 143 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that there substantial for justification the establishment of local government at the grass root level in Saki West local government at the grass root level in Saki West local government and 15.9% representing 27 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 9

**Local Government is Expected to Play the role of Promoting the
Democratic Ideals of a Society and Coordinating Development
Programmes**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that local government is expected to play the role of promoting the democratic ideals of a society and coordinating development programmes.

TABLE 10

**The Legal Framework of Nigeria Local Government Affects the
Efficiency and Performance of Their Function**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	143	84.1	84.1	84.1
AGREE	27	15.9	15.9	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.1% representing 143 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that the legal framework of Nigeria local government affects the efficiency and performance of their function and 15.9% representing 27 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 11

**Development of the Grassroots has being a Concern to Every Responsive
Political System**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	144	84.7	84.7	84.7
AGREE	26	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.7% representing 144 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that development of the grassroots has being a concern to every responsive political system and 15.3% representing 26 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 12

**Nigeria Local Government are Faced with some Constraint which Affect
The Impact at the Grassroots Level**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	130	76.5	76.5	76.5
AGREE	40	23.5	23.5	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 76.5% representing 130 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that Nigeria local government are faced with some constraint which affect the impact at the grass roots level and 23.5% representing 40 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 13

**Does the Constitution Make any Provision for Local Government
Autonomy and Grassroots Development in Saki West Local Government**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	131	77.1	77.1	77.1
AGREE	39	22.9	22.9	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 77.1% representing 131 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that the constitution make any provision for local government autonomy and rural development in Saki West local government and 22.9% representing 39 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 14**Should Local Government be Given Autonomy in Nigeria**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	169	99.4	99.4	99.4
AGREE	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 99.4% representing 169 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that local government be given autonomy in Nigeria and 0.6% representing 1 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 15**Local Government is a Creation of British Colonial Rule in Nigeria**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	169	99.4	99.4	99.4
AGREE	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 99.4% representing 169 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that local government is a creation of British colonial rule in Nigeria and 0.6% representing 1 respondent AGREE.

TABLE 16**Public Institution in Nigeria Have Been Subjected to Frequent Reform than Local Government**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that public institution in Nigeria have been subjected to frequent reform than local government.

TABLE 17

The Officials of Community Development Make Routine Reports to the Councils and State Government

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that the officials of community development make routine reports to the councils and state government.

TABLE 18

is Local Government Autonomy the Next Step for Positive Local Effort in Saki West Local Government

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	144	84.7	84.7	84.7
Valid AGREE	26	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.7% representing 144 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that local government autonomy the next step for positive local effort in Saki West local government and 15.3% representing 26 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 19

**Does the Local Government Really Serves its Purpose as the Level of
Government that is Close to the People**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	169	99.4	99.4	99.4
AGREE	1	.6	.6	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 99.4% representing 169 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that the local government really serves its purpose as the level of government that is close to the people and 0.6% representing 1 respondent AGREE.

TABLE 20

**is Political Instability One of the Problems of the Local Government
System in Saki West Local Government**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that political instability one of the problems of the local government system in Saki West local governmentt.

TABLE 21

**is it True That Financial Allocation, Misappropriation is One of the
Challenges of Saki West Local Government**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	111	65.3	65.3	65.3
AGREE	59	34.7	34.7	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 65.3% representing 111 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that is it true that financial allocation, misappropriation is one of the challenges of Saki West local government and 34.7% representing 59 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 22

**Local Government achievements Deserved praises in Saki West Local
Government**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	144	84.7	84.7	84.7
AGREE	26	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.7% representing 144 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that local government accuded it deserved appraisal in Saki West local government and 15.3% representing 26 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 23

**is it True That The Saki West Local Government is Positively
Contributing to the Overall Development at the Grassroots**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	144	84.7	84.7	84.7
AGREE	26	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 84.7% representing 144 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that is it true that the Saki West local government is positively contributing to the overall development at the grass root and 15.3% representing 26 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 24

**There is Significant Relationship Between Autonomy and Grassroots
Development in Saki West Local Government**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	168	98.8	98.8	98.8
AGREE	2	1.2	1.2	100.0
Total	170	100.0	100.0	

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 98.8% representing 168 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that there is significant relationship between autonomy and social economic development in Saki West local government and 1.2% representing 2 respondents AGREE.

TABLE 25

**Autonomy of Local Government Enhances Socio Economic Development
in Saki West Local Government**

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid STRONGLY AGREE	170	100.0	100.0	100.0

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

This shows that 100.0% representing 170 respondents STRONGLY AGREE that autonomy of local government enhances socio economic development in Saki West local government and 1.2% representing 2 respondents AGREE.

4.3 Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1

H0: Local government autonomy does not enhances grassroots development in Saki West local government.

H1: Local government autonomy enhances grassroots development in Saki West local government.

TABLE 26**One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 2.5					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY ENHANCES RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN Saki West LOCAL GOVERNMENT	-47.701	169	.000	-1.341	-1.40	-1.29

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

DECISION:

The analysis showed that local government autonomy enhances rural development in Saki West local government ($P < 0.05$) confidence significance value of 0.000 hence the null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted (H_1).

Hypothesis 2

H0: There is no significant relationship between autonomy and social economic development in Saki West local government

H1: There is significant relationship between autonomy and social economic development in Saki West local government

TABLE 27**One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 2.5					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
THERE IS SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUTONOMY AND SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SAKI-WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT	-179.430	169	.000	-1.488	-1.50	-1.47

Computer SPSS version 20 output, field survey, 2018

DECISION:

The analysis showed that there is significant relationship between autonomy and social economic development in Saki-West local government ($P < 0.05$) confidence significance value of 0.000 hence the null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted (H_1).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Finding

The study considers the local government's autonomy on grassroots development in Saki West Local Government. The introductory chapter discusses the local government autonomy and the creation of local government anywhere in the world stems which facilitate the development at the grassroots. The concept of Local Government connotes a sociological commitment to democratic participation in the governing process at Saki West local government. The research discussed the various problems that necessities the research work some of which are local government are decentralize power, local government serve as division of power between the central or higher level of government and to allow leader to have access to more detailed knowledge necessary to the delivery of certain service.

Also the statement of hypothesis, the limitation which rouge from inaccessibility to certain document classified as confliction bureaucratic system in public parastatals. The definition of various terminologies and the detailed documentation of the given organization were also ensured. Similarly this research work discussed the concept of local government where the historical background of local government was established. The concept of autonomy as well as reviewed, it was established here that local self government of grassroots democracy is primary aimed at given the vast majority of the peoples the fullest opportunities. The various view opinion ideals, submission of writer's authors and scholars were logically reviewed to ascertain the local government autonomy on grassroots development in Nigeria furthermore; the methodology of those research was revived alongside the various ways and method of gathering data needed for this research work. Also the study population given and study sample was as well discussed. Subsequently, the summary of the finding recommendation and conclusion was not left in the project work.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the research finding of the researchers, the following conclusion had been made:

Firstly, it was established that local government autonomy will aid grassroots development in Saki West Local Government. This is because effective local government autonomy is meant for meeting peculiar grassroots need for the people.

Secondly it was evident from this research finding that finance inadequacy of skilled worker, the problem of participation and involvement affected the grassroots development in Saki West Local Government.

Lastly general indiscipline by the community development agent and in most times has negative effect on the responsibility of the grassroots development.

5.3 Recommendations

Embarking on a thorough research work, the researcher had made the following recommendations based on findings and observation which are;

- a) Local government council should recruit professionals qualify for effective rural development.
- b) Local government should be entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing and appraising development programme in it area because it is not easy for people who live far away from the location of the project to make a comprehensive and realistic review of local project.
- c) The state government must ensure that local government plan does not vary with its own plan and at the implementation stage of local government should be responsible for mobilizing people support for programmes or project to be executed. It is mostly important to remember always that we should plan not just study only for people but also with them.
- d) The local government council should encourage community development agent to undertake community development project.
- e) To also recommend adequate training for the staff of Saki West Local Government area in order for active great product or outcome.
- f) Local government personnel should be sent on various courses in order to improve and enhance productivity.

- g) Any government project which does not enjoy the people support is bound to fail. There are certain project in the rural development which is best implement at local level such project should be transfer to local government with the necessary fund and manpower of their execution.

Dominant Recommendations

These dominant recommendations are made to promote the Local government institution that the political bureau report, a fore most report that the vast majority of well-meaning Nigerians contribute to local government for development”. Local government areas in the country are in dire need to real development.

Local Government Finance: Three aspects of local government revenue needed representation in our recommendation here. First is that state government should extend the rightful financial allocation to local government as the federal government does. State government should also totally eliminate all from the federation account, an Interference documented by many writers (e.g. Aghayere, 2004; Omoruyi, 2002; Ola and Tonwe, 2005) Local government autonomy is no doubt promoted by such policy adherence.

The second aspect is that local government must work hard to share up their autonomy themselves through more Internal Revenue Generation (IRG) these recommendation agreed with the recommendation of the political Bureau report (Nigeria 2003).

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