

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A
STUDY OF ABUJA MUNICIPAL AREA COUNCIL**

BY

**JIDEOFFOR MICHEAL CHIGBO
NSU/PGD/PAD/0097/18/19**

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research work entitled, "Local Government As An Instrument of Rural Development: A Study of Abuja Municipal Area Council", was written by me and all relevant published and unpublished materials used in this research work have been acknowledged. It has not been presented in any previous work for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration.

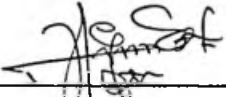


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NSU/PGD/PAD/0097/18/19

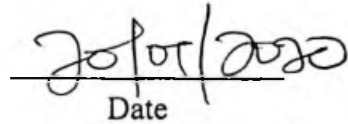
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CERTIFICATION

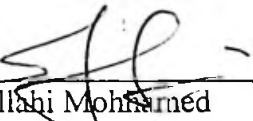
This project entitled "Local Government As An Instrument of Rural Development: A Study of Abuja Municipal Area Council " meet the partial requirements for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration of Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and approved by its contribution to knowledge.



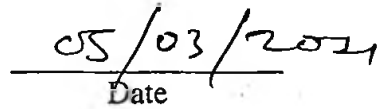
Dr. Charles Nwekeaku
Project supervisor



Date



Dr Abdullahi Mohammed
Head of Department



Date

External Examiner

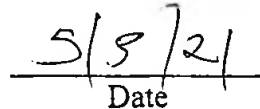
Date

Prof. Banabas Barde
Dean of Faculty

Date



Prof. Jonathan M. Ayuba
DEAN, SPGS



Date

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my beautiful wife, Enewa and my angels, Shalom, Rhema, race and Zelda for their love, support and prayers which gave me the courage to undertake this academic programme in general and this research work in particular.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Almighty God for giving me the knowledge, strength, aspiration and by whose infinite mercy my dreams became a reality. My appreciation goes to my able supervisor, Dr. Charles Nwekeaku; for his love, corrections and scholastic suggestion which brought this work to this point. I say may God continue to be guiding and protecting you in all your endeavours, amen.

I also wish to appreciate all the lecturers of the department whom I benefited from their wisdom and all the scholars whose books were consulted in the course of this research work.

I am grateful to my friends and coursemates, Mr Collins, Suleiman, Nnamdi, Mrs Bridget among others for their wonderful support all through the time of study. May God bless everyone of you. Amen.

ABSTRACT

The study examined the local Government as An Instrument of Rural Development, using Abuja Municipal Area Council as a case study. The major objective of the study is to find out how AMAC has stimulated rural development in the area and to determine whether AMAC has the necessary facilities for rural development. Both primary and secondary data were used for the analysis of the study. The theoretical underpinning for this study is system theory. The data were analyzed using simple percentage and tables which generally revealed that corruption was a thorn in the flesh in AMAC and that mismanagement of funds was largely responsible for the likely shortage of funds in the local government. The study recommended that the issue of corruption should be taken seriously. There should also be effective monitoring of funds released to local government by the federal government through the state government.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

As in other parts of the world, the need for local government in Nigerian economy has never been more imperative than at the moment. Governments at all levels desire to deliver good governance to all because “local government is central to creating and sustaining an enabling environment for development” (Asselin, 2015).

However, the formulation of coherent rural policy in any developing country in the world cannot be overestimated, therefore for any meaningful development; it is the responsibility of any legitimate government to develop her rural population. Local government has been described as a peculiar system that is always recognized in Nigeria as important. It contrast to some of the aspect of National Politics, the local environment needs close personal observation for its proper understanding, and that it cannot be easily visualized from secondary source.

The attempt became necessary, also because of the prompt role being played by local government since its reform in 1976 and the subsequent development of local government by the military regimes. It is because of the effort of military regimes in reforming local government structure that make some scholars and practitioners to belief that:Local government plays a very important role in economic development. This is achievable through the painstaking efforts of government and its bureaucrats whose collective responsibility it is, to govern and manage the local government in a manner that would enhance economic growth and development.

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

In any organization, there are issues that need scientific investigation and examination in order to find factors that either advance or retard the achievement of its goal and objectives. A local government council is therefore expected to play the roles of promoting the democratic ideals of a society and co-coordinating development programmes at the local level. It is also expected to serve as the basis of socio-economic development in the locality. Section 7 (1) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically guarantees a democratically elected local government system. The fourth schedule of the same constitution similarly defines the roles of the local government (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). The Nigerian Federation currently have 774 local government units created for grassroots administration and for delivering services to the people at the various local levels as well as creating a relationship with the local people through which the government can be responsive to their needs and demands.

Furthermore, local government also exists to ensure effective political involvement of the local people in the policy making process as well as in the affairs of government. Local government is the government established for the sole purpose of directly governing the local populace. They receive monthly allocation from the federation account in addition to numerous sources of internal revenue for optimum performance. Despite the high expectations from AMAC there are not much on ground to justify its existence as the third tier of government and veritable tool for national development. This, therefore, raises a fundamental question: Does the Abuja Municipal Area Council have the necessary facilities for the development of the area?

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the foregoing, this research will attempt to proffer answers to the following pertinent questions:

1. To what extent has AMAC stimulated rural development in the area?
2. Does the AMAC have the necessary facilities for rural development of the area?
3. What are the strategies for improved performance of the AMAC for rural transformation?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

In line with the research questions, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out how AMAC have stimulated rural development in the area.
2. To determine whether AMAC have the necessary facilities for rural development.
3. To propose practical strategies for optimum performance of AMAC for rural transformation of the area.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research will be significant to both, scholars and researchers on how to approach the issues confronting rural development and providing possible solutions.

However, government has not relented in her effort by making laudable policies but the rural areas are still underdeveloped, lacking the essential infrastructural facilities.

Several reasons could be responsible for this such as financial problem, euphoric desire for self governance, the variation in status of local government, poor staffing, local politics etc.

Besides, the study is important in the sense that it will serve as document for reference purpose for further researchers.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This research work centers around the issues and programmes leading to the development of rural areas in Abuja Municipal Area Council, investigates all programmes that have gone into the development of the rural areas. It takes a look at how these programmes are being

initiated and implemented. It finds out who are the major beneficiaries of some of these programmes.

1.7 Definition of Operational Terms

Local Government: A system of local administration under which local communities and towns are organized to maintain law and order, provide some limited range of social services and public amenities.

Instrument: A tool or displaying device used for achieving a goal.

Development: A process of production when a remarkable progress has been made in the conversion of natural and human resources of a society into goods and services.

Rural Development: A process where rural dwellers come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems.

Rural: Pertaining to less-populated, non-urban areas.

Coherent: Having the same direction.

Bureaucrats: An official who is part of a bureaucracy. E.g Civil Servant.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Framework

2.1.1 Concept of Development

There are as many views on the meaning of the concept. Put simply Idode (2019), development is a normative concept, almost a synonym for “improvement or change” it is loaded. According to Dudley Seer, talking about the concept of development, the following questions must be properly answered:

- (i) What has been happening to poverty?
- (ii) What has been happening to unemployment?
- (iii) What has been happening to population?

The scholar makes us to know that when the right answers are provided to all these questions above, then it can be said to be meaningful development. Development has been used in many senses, including political, economical and social. According to him, development occurs when individuals or societies confront their problems and attempt to solve them and become able to control their environment. The term development, according to Oni (1987), means different things to different peoples. Some people take it to mean change, while other sees; it as advancement, improvement, and progress. It has ethnocentric sense some scholars regard it as modernization or westernization. According to him, it must be pinned down to specific spheres of life.

Thus, we should talk of things like economic, social, technological political development, just to mention a few. Yesufu (1996) said, “Development is a continuous process of positive change in the quality and span of life of person or group of person”. On the part of economists, Schum Peter said that, development is a contiguous and spontaneous change in the stationary state, which forever alters and displace the equilibrium state previously

existing. Kingle Berger also sees development to imply more output and change in the technological and institutional arrangement by which it is produced and distributed.

Furthermore, Fried Mann said, that development is an innovative process leading to the structural transformation of social system. (Jhigan 1986).

Development is not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multidimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic and social system.

Development is a process of improving the quality of all human lives with three equally important aspects. These are Todaro's Three Objectives of Development

1. Raising peoples' living levels, i.e incomes and consumption, levels of food medical services, education through relevant growth processes.
2. Creating conditions conducive to the growth of peoples' through the establishment of social, political and economic systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect.
3. Increasing peoples' freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice variables, e.g. varieties of goods and services.

Alternative Interpretations of Development (Mabogunje)

Development as Economic Growth too often commodity output as opposed to people is emphasized – measures of growth in GNP.

Alternative Interpretations of Development

Development as Modernization emphasizes process of social change which is required to produce economic advancement; examines changes in social, psychological and political processes;

How to develop wealth oriented behavior and values in individuals; profit seeking rather than subsistence and self sufficiency.

Shift from commodity to human approach with investment in education and skill training.

Alternative Interpretations of Development

Development as Distributive Justice view development as improving basic needs. Interest in social justice which has raised three issues:

1. Nature of goods and services provided by governments
2. Matter of access of these public goods to different social classes
3. How burden of development can be shared among these classes

Target groups include small farmers, landless, urban under-employed and unemployed.

Alternative Interpretations of Development.

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Development as improving basic needs.

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Marxist View of Development

Emphasizes Mode of Production elements and activities necessary to produce and reproduce real, material life.

Capitalist (market economy) mode depends on wage labour whose labour power produces a surplus which is accumulated and appropriated by the employer- result is often class conflict; in capitalist societies.

Neocolonial Dependence Model

Outgrowth of Marxist thinking – Dos Santos

Existence of underdevelopment due to historical evolution of an unequal international capitalist system of rich country – poor country relations sets up center (Developed Countries) contrast.

Attempts to become self-reliant and progressive are suppressed by this relationship.

Moreover, certain elites in the developing world (e.g landlords, entrepreneurs, merchants) enjoy high incomes, social status and political power and thus perpetuate inequality and conformity and are rewarded.

They serve international power groups such as multi-national firms, assistance agencies (World Bank) and other agents.

Sustainable Development

Defined as Development that is likely to achieve lasting satisfaction of human needs and improvement of the quality of life and encompasses:

Help for the very poorest who are left with no option but to destroy their environment to survive Idea of self-reliant development with natural resources constraints. Cost effective development using different economic criteria to the traditional i.e development should not degrade environment.

Important issues of health control, appropriate technologies, food self-reliance, clean water and shelter for all. People centered activities are necessary- human beings are the resources in the concept.

Development in general is ambiguous and illogical terms, it has been for example confuse or misconstrued as having the meaning as 'growth' or increase in productivity even though research has not established beyond reasonable doubt that a society may experience growth without really experience development. Secondary development has often been equated with changes, again it is a known fact that not all changes which take place in society result in progress. Some changes are for the better; others bring worse conditions of life to people, institutions and groups in the society bring transformed. Therefore according to Professor Sanda (1986), in other that changes in society may fall into the class transformations which may be considered as development, such changes must connote 'progress', and in particular, the changes must result in enhanced quality of life for the majority of citizen in the society.

Moreover, development has also been erroneously equated with 'industrialization' or with modernization.

The recent experience of many industrializing but developing countries, however, points to the fact that premature industrialization may constitute a stumbling block to the process of development in certain situations.

The situations whereby workers are withdrawn from the agricultural sector (without the location of an adequate substitute of sources of food production) to the industrial sector which has limited capacity for the absorption of unskilled workers, have created numerous problems of underdevelopment of some third world countries. Therefore development can be a multidimensional referring to positive changes which affect the majority and which lie in social economics, political and cultural sphere of societal life. Consequently, while economic development is considered with ensuring notable and sustained increase in a nation, social development refers to the human capital and how to mobilize the latter for the enhancement of the quality of life of the majority of the citizens through non-economic elements in development, thus it involves considerations of social justice and social equalization, social integration including national unity and elimination of disruptive cleavages. Political development includes attitudes of political decision makers towards rational development planning and general cultivation of functional culture; it entails also social welfare and basic needs consideration in such areas as people's food or nutrition, available educational opportunities, clothing, shelter, health, leisure and security.

Education

Adult education is essentially grass root movement, and therefore a proper and legitimate activity of the local government.

The local government is the one recognized by constitution to undertake certain activities including the organization and administration of primary and adult education. The management of adult education by the local government in

Nigeria dated as far back as the 1940s and 1950s and so to eradicate ignorance, poverty and diseases.

Still on education, local government made provision for tables, chairs, desk, benches and other infrastructure materials for primary schools. Moreover, Ejigbo local government embarked on awarding scholarship to best students in secondary school and award bursary for higher institution students. Ejigbo Local Government also constructed commercial libraries.

2.1.2 Concept of Rural Development

The meaning of rural development has been the subject of much debate and little agreement. The definition of rural development varies from one point of view to the other. The definition of rural development may be centered around income criterion in which the concept is made to address the problem of rural poverty.

For Chenery, modernization is synonymous with development, which eventually boils down to westernization. According to Lerner, modernization is "a process of change in which development is the economic component". For him, rising output per head is effectively incorporated with the maximum understanding

and practice of the people the new rules and ethics of productivity. Everett Rogers shares the above view when he defines development as a social change occasioned by the introduction of new ideas among a people for maximum production with modern implements and improved social organization evidenced by increased per capital income among the populace. Similarly, Brett sees development as a change process of a society which results to increased productivity, equal distribution of resources among the people, as well as the

emergence of new social institutions that enjoy effective interaction with that of the outside world. For Brett, development is synonymous with modernization measured by the extent the people have westernized. For Parsons, a society will be considered as development or modernized when the first set of values have given way for the second set, which are the inherent characteristics of a developed or, still better, a westernized culture.

In a related view, David Apter, who sees development as a process of modernization, believes that choices and preferences of people are central to their development. He says that the process of modernization begins with the ability of man to make choices and preferences among competing societal demands.

According to the World Bank Rural Development must be clearly designed to increase production. It recognizes that improved food supplies and nutrition, together with basic services, such as health and education, not only directly improve the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural poor, but can also indirectly enhance their productivity and their ability to contribute to the national economy.

Rural development ensures the modernization of the rural society and the transition from its traditional isolation to integration with the national economy.

It is concerned with increased agricultural production for urban and international markets.

This is essential so as to generate foreign exchange, and to attract revenue to finance public and private consumption and investment. In order to encourage increased production rural development may offer a package of inputs and welfare services for the rural masses such inputs and welfare services include physical inputs (such as the provision of feeder roads, water and electrification), social inputs – (namely health and educational facilities) and institutional inputs such as credit facilities, agricultural research facilities, rural extension services among others.

However, rural development is viewed as the process of organizing the rural areas in an effort to promote socio and economic well being of rural dwellers. Therefore, the people

themselves should be in full control of their future destiny, that is to say the object of development is first and foremost the people themselves.

Therefore, it means that, the means of development is the creativity of the people themselves. The care of human development according to the above view is people. The national resources as complementary to people as integrate elements of development in various environment. The western orthodox conception of the term development" is viewed by Roger who sees development as a kind of social change in which ideas are introduced into a social system with the sole aim of producing her capital income and increasing her standard of living through better production method and improved social organization. Looking at the development from this point of view it could be seen as: Advancement towards certain well defined general objectives which correspond to specific condition of man which correspond to the specific condition of societies of the modern world.

Furthermore, scholars in this school of thought refers to development in terms of Technological growth or making better use of the application of the latest knowledge to the solution of the problem at hand Sanda (1987) sees development in a multi dimensional ways. According to him development refers essentially to the positive changes which must fall within the socio-economic and politics cultural sphere of social life. For S.B Ayo; Development must emphasis not only economic growth but adequate and meaningful improvement is the social life of the people. There must be a serious reduction in the level of power.

Rodney (1986) sees a Development in many facets of human society when he posited that: At the level of individual, it demonstrates increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self discipline, responsibility and material well being. From the above definitions, it becomes clear that the concept of Development is not only capable of different meaning and interpretation like any other concepts in social science, but it is also ideological.

2.1.3 Rural Development Programmes in Nigeria

Directorate of foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure.

This programme was established in 1986 and while introducing the programme in his budget speech, the President said DFFRI was established to move rural development policy away from the past narrow sectoral preoccupation with the generation of food and fibre surpluses to overall formulation of a national rural development strategy with emphasis on the alleviation of rural poverty and the enhancement of the quality of life.

The programme has the following objectives:

- i. To improve rural sanitation, literacy and technology
- ii. To promote a frame work for grass roots social mobilization.
- iii. To provide rural roads and water.
- iv. To provide two-way channel of communication between local communication and government.
- v. To make appropriate services and development activities responsive to local wishes and initiatives.

However, it is not contestable that local government is the focal point for the promotion of development and cultural revival.

The services expected of local government are very essential to the extent that they affect the daily activities of the people. The provision or the otherwise of these basic amenities such as roads, housing, education, water and electricity service among others therefore surely dictates the conditions of the living of the people. Local Government smallest and administrative unit in the three tier system of the government, is the most homogenous in terms of social cultural historical and in some cases geographical features which are essential for effective planning practice.

The Community Bank

Community banks, according to Larry, the Head of Directorate of foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure, DFRRI, can be seen as a bank which has no branches and serves only its immediate community, it is also called a union bank it is different from people's bank which is of necessary limited to urban and semi urban poor, who are merely customers of the bank because it is wholly owned by the federal government and operates the branch system while community bank is autonomous.

The bank was introduced in 1991 and being owned by community development association, patriotic groups, Unions cooperative societies and indigene will also have one third while the federal government through DFRRI owns one third. The following are the major functions of the banks.

1. The rapid enhancement of the development of productive activities in the rural areas and hence the improvement of the economic status of both the rural people and the rural areas.
2. The promotion of an effective and integrated national financial system that responds to the needs of the whole economy from individuals and grassroots community level, through the levels of local government area and states to the national levels.

These banks will be essentially commercial bank, except that they will not engage in sophisticated practices like foreign exchange transactions, letters of credits, etc. they are to concentrate on receiving deposit and giving credits to customers within the community. Their credits emphasis are however to be on agricultural and rural industrialization projects. Therefore, if the programme is successful it is expected the economic activities will be enhanced in community and income will hence begin to rise.

National Agricultural Land Development Authority.

This programme was announced by president, General I. Babangida during his annual budget speech in 1991 and by May 7, 1991 the government inaugurated the first governing board of the authority to fill the yawning gap between Nigerian agricultural programmes and development, therefore the programme has as follows its objectives:

- a. Provision of strategic support for land development which at present constitutes one of the most severe infra structural bottlenecks hindering the development of viable economic farm holding the country.
- b. Active support for and promotion of the consolidation of scattered fragmented peasant farms in order to encourage the evolution of economic size farm holdings and villages that will reap the economics of scale in the provision of social services and agricultural technologies.
- c. Expansion of production capacity in agricultural and again export capacity in agriculture and again export capacity in traditional resources in a manner that will ensure minimum soil and environment degradation.
- d. Promotion and appropriate and cost – effective mechanization of agriculture.

Provision of income and employment opportunities for rural people in order to raise rural incomes, general living standards in rural Nigeria, and constitute meaningfully toward the attainment of natural food security.

Perhaps it is note worthy this stage to mention briefly the importance of agricultural development project introduced in 1975 which is in form of rural integrated development approach to agricultural and rural development.

Mention is made of this policy despite the fact that it does not fall within the range of the scope of this study but due to its impact as far as rural development is concerned to Ejigbo – township. This programme was introduced by Oyo State Government in 1982 with its enclave project named Oyo North Agricultural Development project (ONADEP), the

Federal Government and Oyo State Government has its headquarter at Saki with branches at other Local Government Kajola, Irepo and Ifedapo Local Government Areas.

2.1.4 Concept of Local Government

The performance of local governments has been receiving increasing attention in Nigeria over the past decades, from both academic and civil society sectors. All over the world and especially in Africa, local government is seen as a means of enhancing development and service delivery, improve governance and deepen democracy (Buccus, Hemson, Hicks and Piper, 2007). The National Guidelines for Reforms of Local Government (1976:1) in Nigeria defines Local Government as: Government at local levels exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and so determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal Governments in their areas and to ensure through devolution of functions in these councils and through the active participation of the people and then traditional institutions that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized (cited in Bello, 1986:12). This explains the legality of local governments which has the backing of the fourth schedule of the 1999 constitution to enforce authority and power within its territorial boundary. It is expected to discharge duties which ensure effectiveness at the local level and this should in some ways contribute to the overall growth and development of the nation. Mabogunje (in Ibieta, 2010) cited some of the major expectations from local governments which include:

a) Improving the living standards of the subsistence population through mobilization and allocation of resources to achieve desirable balance over time between the welfare and productive services available to the rural subsistence populations.

b) Ensuring mass participation aimed at achieving both allocate rationality plus equity with redistributive efficiency.

c) Making the process self-sustaining: this requires appropriate skills acquisition and development; capacity building; and availability/presence of functional institutions at local, state and federal levels to facilitate optimal use of available resources and the development of the rural areas. Nigeria operates a federal system with feeble attempts at democratic practice and has three tiers of government namely: the federal government, the state government and the local government being the third tier. It is pertinent to note that the practice of federalism in Nigeria has had several interference by the military who imported their unitary command system into governance. A semblance of this unitary command still exists in the present democratic dispensation as power is concentrated in the hands of the federal government, impinging on the true practice of federalism as devolution appears shaky. The practice of federalism in Nigeria deviates from the letter and spirit of federalism as advocated by Wheare (1784) who is credited with developing a concise treatise of federalism (Ibietan, 2010). Onyeoziri (in Ibietan, 2010) further argues that the inconsistencies characterizing the logic of federal practice especially in Nigeria where each level/tier of government which is supposed to be coordinate and independent in its sphere becomes subordinated and this is contrary to the letter and spirit of federalism as advocated by Wheare (1784) who developed the original idea of federalism (Ibietan, 2010). Onyeoziri (in Ibietan, 2010) further corroborated that the imperfections in the state institutions also create some disabilities for the federal practice. He therefore cautioned on the lacuna in discussing federalism without backing it with "asuitable theory of state" (which is the infrastructure) onto which federalism is grafted. Thus, a mutual reinforcement of the two variables offers a reliable strategy in guaranteeing stable federal arrangements (Ibietan, 2010).

When there is an effective federal practice, then there can be proper deconcentration and devolution of powers to subnational governments, to perform their duties. International, Journal of Management Sciences 753 the Nigerian federal structure allows the existence of the local government as the third tier of government. Section 7(1) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically guarantees a democratically elected local government system. The fourth schedule of the same constitution similarly defines the roles of the local governments (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). The Nigerian federation currently has 774 local government units created for grassroots administration and for delivering services to the people at the various local levels as well as creating a relationship with the local people through which the government can be responsive to their needs and demands. In addition, local governments also exist to ensure effective political involvement of the local people in the policy making process as well as in the affairs of government (Afrobarometer, 2013).

Some scholars are of a contrary opinion that the local governments have not performed their functions as agents of development; rather they have attained disrepute for corruption, fiscal disorderliness and overall irresponsibility. The lack of uprightness, transparency and accountability at the local level of government constitute a heavy toll on the welfare of average Nigerians (Agbo, 2010). Local government as the name implies is the government established for the sole purpose of directly governing the local populace. This means that the government at the local level is expected to be transparent and accountable to the local people for whom it was created and the provisions of the constitution ought to be reflected through the running of this tier of government. As an aberration to good governance, corruption exists at the three tiers of government, and local governments in Nigeria are often seen as nurturing grounds for barefaced corruption and near absence of transparency and accountability in the conduct of its governance (Abubakar, 2010). Gabriel (2011) argues

further that corruption has become an everyday issue in the context of the Nigerian governments, as there are frequent cases of stealing, embezzlement and mismanagement of funds. "Thieving has become a major interest and diversion for Nigerians in high places. It has become a big time occupation. All arms of government are affected and the local government is not excluded" (Gabriel. 2011).

The lack of autonomy and financial power to attract and retain qualified personnel are also major problems as local governments do not possess the necessary resources needed to formulate and fully implement programmes that are beneficial to the communities they govern. This lack of autonomy is partly attributed to constant interference and impediments on the affairs of the local governments by the state governments. Lawal (2000) opined that local government is the tier of government closest to the people and it is vested with certain powers to exercise control over the affairs of people in its domain.

A local government council is therefore expected to play the roles of promoting the democratic ideals of a society and co-coordinating development programmes at the local level. It is also expected to serve as the basis of socio-economic development in the locality. Despite the numerous challenges it faces, local government is essentially a pathway to, and patron of national integration,

organization and development (Lawal,2000).Oviasuyi & Isiraojie (2010) averred that local governments exist in Nigeria, yet the resident populations in it are denied the benefits of its existence. Local governments have however been criticized by many local dwellers in various parts of Nigeria for not living up to its expectation and actualizing the purpose for which it was created. The Concept of Community Development is a term that has been subjected by several authors to various perspectives, each of them presenting definitions to connote their specialization and practice.

The assumption is that the definition of community development can easily be arrived at by understanding the concepts of community and development separately. However, community development is a broad concept, hence the various views and definitions on the concept. 'Development' is a progression that increases varieties. It means new choices, variation, thinking about ostensible issues differently and forestalling change (Christenson and Robinson, 1989). Community development marries the idea of 'community' with 'development'. The notion of community refers to a group of people with common traits. Therefore, community development depends on communication between people and cooperative action, rather than individual exploits which some sociologists termed as 'collective agency' (Flora and Flora, in Ikechukwu, 2012). Ugwu (in Ikechukwu, 2012) asserted that 'community development is one of the main boards upon which national developmental policies and their implementation are hinged'.

2.1.5 The Role of Local Government in Rural Development

It is the duty of the local government to ensure service delivery at the grassroots, support infrastructure by building public, low-cost homes as well as building and maintaining public parks, increase training opportunities for the rural dwellers and also attune government policies in favour of the rural areas. An additional response is needed whereby government agencies develop a greater role in helping rural dwellers build their capacity for development (Cavaye, 2000).

Increasing number of people no longer view the safety of their neighborhoods as the sole responsibility of the police. In well-ordered countries, citizens in areas plagued by crime and violence are uniting to work with local governments. Together, they have the knowledge and resources to identify and remove the sources of crime, drug use, and juvenile delinquency in their rural areas. Developing and sustaining these partnerships require strong local leadership from Chairmen, Councillors, local chiefs, and other elected

local officials. It is the role of the local government to foster such initiatives and organize groups involved in crime control in their various localities so as to give room for the rural areas to develop (Asheroft, 2001). Local government exist to provide services and it must be judged by its success in providing services up to a standard measured by a national inspectorate” (Mackenzie in Ezeani, 2012).

In view of its proximity to the grassroots, local government can provide some services more efficiently than the federal or state governments. The efficient performance of these services makes the existence of local government very compelling (Sharpe,1970). Relevance of Efficiency Services Theory to the Nigerian Local Government System, the fourth schedule of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is very clear on the functions of and expectations from Local Government Councils (LGCs) as the closest tier of government to the grassroots.

These functions by which LGCs must be interrogated include provision and maintenance of infrastructures such as roads, public conveniences and formulation of economic planning and development schemes to mention but a few. These have been termed as exclusive and mandatory functions of LGCs by Nwachukwu (2000). The LGCs also have concurrent functions such as provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education; development of agriculture and natural resources; provision and maintenance of health services. There are also extractive functions through which they can boost internally generated revenues; Distributive functions which deals with allocation of values and benefits to the local populace; Regulative and protective functions aimed at maintaining law, order and public safety; educative functions which are directed at changing negative traditional attitudes and dispositions which drive social and economic progress, the view of this project is that this theory represents an ideal but not the real situation in Nigeria as local government councils have not robustly proved that are efficient agent for providing service

that are local in character. To underscore this, especially with reference to the performance of LGCs in Nigeria's fourth republic. Adamolekun (2009) posited that "since the return to civilian rule in 1999. The LGs are widely perceived as failed institutions".

Obstacles to Local Government Councils' Efficiency in Nigeria

Corruption at the Local Government Level: Corruption, according to Harsh (1993), is a practical problem involving the outright theft, embezzlement of funds or other appropriation of state property, nepotism, and granting of favour to personal acquaintances. One of the fundamental problems of contemporary Nigeria is corruption which has thrived, progressed, and flourished unabated in the country. Corruption has been institutionalized to the point of accepting it as part of the system. Although, corruption is universal; it is found all over the world, but the degree of its manifestation varies from system to system (Adeyemi, 2012).

Corruption is the greatest bane of local government administration in Nigeria. At the grassroots level, corruption has been canonically accommodated, entertained, and celebrated within the system. In the local government setting. Corruption is normally labeled and euphemistically referred to as "Egunje" (a slogan implying illegal offer" in Nigeria). Regrettably, democracy, which is assumed to be the antidote to corruption, has not lived to expectations in practice in Nigeria. Consequently, the level of apathy, cynicism, and poverty is high among the community dwellers (Lawal and Abegunde, 2010). Kolawole (in Oladunjoye. 2010) lamented this situation when he opined that "in spite of the establishment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), corruption still thrives in our society". In his analysis, Kolawole is of the view that the lack of funds is no more a constraint on local government performance, but mismanagement and misappropriation of the funds accruable to it (Lawal, 2010). Nowadays, men and women who have been (s) elected to undertake leadership position at the grassroots level in Nigeria primarily seek means to enrich themselves as quickly as they

can and ultimately run the budgets of their various localities aground without any visible developmental projects to show for it. Developmental projects, if any, are in place after being thoroughly inflated (Lawal, 2001). Most local government chairmen see their position as opportunity to enrich themselves. The following examples are quite revealing. In 2001 the chairman of Kachia LGA in Kaduna state awarded a contract of N2.5 million for the rehabilitation and completion of women's centre and no work was done. Similarly, the chairman of Sanga local government in Kaduna spent N6,495,605.70 as extra budgetary spending. He awarded a contract of N3,171,375.00 for rehabilitation of his office which N906,044.00 would have been enough for (Aluko, 2006). In Kwara State. The Chairman of Ilorin South LGA claimed to have built two staff residential apartments at Fufu, the councils headquarter at an inflated price of N20 million. The chairman also claimed to have paid N19 million to a contractor for the Gaa Akanbi and Niger roads which had been rehabilitated by the state government in the previous year. It was also reported that the chairman owned twelve personal cars, far above what his legitimate earnings can afford (Aluko, 2006). Also sentenced for corrupt practices were Aihaji Gana Abbas, the former chairman of Dam ban local government in Bauchi, and the treasurer of the council. Aihaji Au Abacha. They were convicted and sentenced to 17 years imprisonment for misappropriation of public funds while in office as the chairman and treasurer respectively nine of them were recommended for three months suspension and directed to refund millions of naira they allegedly misappropriated.

The 17 Local Government Areas in Yobe state received a total of 72.3 billion in eight years, from 1999 to 2007, according to figures from the office of the Accountant General of the Federation (Nwanma, 2008). An objective analysis of the physical infrastructural and social services in the state is at variance with this International Journal of Management Sciences

759 enormous statutory allocation. Corruption has really denied the public the dividend of their social contract' (Nwanma, 2008).

In fact, grassroots administration in Nigeria is increasingly paling into insignificance and the fastest means of primitive accumulation. This is due to the fact that the more financial resources earned by the local governments, the less the provision of essential services to the people at the grassroots in Nigeria.

State Government Persistent Intervention in Local Government Affairs The imperfections in the provisions of the 1999 constitution have made almost every State Government see Local Governments as their sub- entities and therefore subjected them to various manipulations by the Executive Governors. In 2009, the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Mrs Farida Waziri, disclosed that: The level of social infrastructural development in the rural areas does not match the huge amount of money available to local government administrators nationwide. The 774 local government councils in the country received a whopping amount of N3.3 trillion from the federation account between June 1999 and June 2007, without anything to show for it (Waziri in Akanni.2009).

Diversions of local government funds by the state governors have been a major problem that stunted developmental growth in most local areas across the country. For instance, in Undo State, under the late Governor Olusegun Agagu. there was an unholy alliance between the state government and the local councils in the state, where the former constituted Joint Action Committee, tagged "JAC". Federal allocations to local government councils were first deposited into a particular ad-hoc account before calling for the committee's meeting. This in a way created avenues for the state government to divert local government funds and release paltry sums instalmentally.

As a matter of fact, LG allocations became slush funds for state governors' personal activities. Practices like these are rampant in this fourth republic, and this circumscribed the ability of LGCs to deliver services efficiently at the grassroots (Olaniyonu, 2007). (Akanni 2010) corroborated that state governors see the allocation from the federation account to Local Government Areas as their personal fund and use it to finance their political activities. Some Governors found it easy stealing from LGAs. Between 1999 and 2003. Only Chief Adebisi Akande of Osun State was reported not to have tampered with the local government funds (Lawal, 2010). A particular Governor from a North Central state who was not re-elected actually took as much as N2 billion from the LGAs within four years. Also, a former LGA chairman in a South-West state narrated an instance in which his state governor had given them a few million naira's each as running cost and he challenged the Governor that the money being shared was the constitutional entitlement of the LGAs which the chairman should use for development purposes.

The governor told him to- keep quiet as he (the chairman) "cannot tell me how to use my money" (Oyelude, 2010). Several local government administrators confirmed how their respective Governors just give them few million naira as running cost and diverted the remaining money originally meant for LGAs. Furthermore, several expenses incurred by the State Governments were charged to the account of the LGAs (Lawal, 2010). When the local government chairmen realised that they could barely pay salaries from the stipends given to them by the Governors, they found a smart but dubious way to share the money with their councilors for personal gain and jettison the social services which the constitution set out for Local Government Areas to provide (Olaniyonu, 2007).

Rural Development

Maboguje (1980) opines that:

Rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low-income people living in rural area on a self:

Sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives.

Three features of importance in the above definition are:

- (a) Improving the living standards of the subsistence population through mobilization and allocation of resources to achieve desirable balance over time between the welfare and productive services available to the rural subsistence populations.
- (b) Mass participation aimed at achieving both allocate rationality plus equity with distributive efficiency.
- (c) Making the process self-sustaining: It requires appropriate skills acquisition and development; capacity building; and availability/presence of functional institutions at local, state and federal levels to facilitate optimal use of available resources and the development of the rural areas. Self-sustenance implies grassroots participation in development programmes geared at transforming their lives.

It is however, observable that government policies geared toward rural development in Nigeria have always been to the advantage of few individuals in the privileged class; in addition, the administrative systems surrounding the implementation of rural development programmes do not usually function in the interest of the majority of rural dwellers that such programmes ought to capture or accommodate. This fact is applicable to existing institutions, whether commercial, private a traditional. Okoli (1988) asserts further that “all

these institutions which are intended to function in the interest of the rural people, invariably promote the interest of a few individuals who control and manipulate them”.

Self Help: An Issue in Rural Development

Self-Help refers to strategies that induce progress in rural societies, all of which do not involve action by governments. (Okoli & Onah, 2002).

It could relate to individual with resources implementing project or projects to satisfy the basic needs of a community. It refers to community development through coordinated efforts of the rural people in selecting and executing local, economic and social programmes.

Self-help is democratic, emphasizes bottom-top approach to planning and governance and induces involvement, responsibility, tolerance with local initiative and satisfaction. It could be slow in process but its worthwhile because it is people driven and centered.

The formation of Agricultural cooperative movements and execution of social infrastructural projects explain the major phases discernible in self-help as rural development strategy.

Infrastructural projects approach to self-help is justifiable on felt-needs', humanitarian and economic grounds; fosters spirit of competition among and between various communities, and the perception of rural populace in equating development with provision of social services/amenities.

In addition to the above, self-help reduces economic burden on government through the mobilization of rural people in providing social amenities for themselves; enhances peace and concord through promotion of social ties; provides a veritable avenue for socio-political participation; reduces rural-urban disparities and it encourages community self-reliance that

can facilitate the attainment of core developmental values such as life sustenance and freedom.

Problems of Self-Help

(i) Lack of dedication, sincerity and commitment to self-help programmes on the part of successive Nigerian governments.

(ii) As a corollary of the above, there is inadequate support and encouragement for self-help programmes through technical assistance or confidence, aid or assistance. Where and when government is obliged to support and encourage, such gesture is highly politicized, and reasons other than merit or genuine needs determine the flow of government support.

(iii) Poor understanding of the real idea behind the concept of self-help on the part of many top government officials. This explains the excessive concern for the physical aspect of self-help to the detriment of the more permanent tangible results of fostering change of attitude, local self-government and integration of rural citizenry into the main stream of national life through participation.

(iv) Against the backdrop of poor conceptualization of the self-help philosophy, self-help has not been fully and properly integrated into local development programmes on a continuing basis. Most of the programmes remain ad-hoc, distorted and uncoordinated due to lack of correct vision.

(v) As a result of inadequate (or lack of) knowledgeable leadership in the communities, there are often poor conceptualization, costing and prioritization of projects which no doubt bedevils their execution and success.

(vi) Owing to government's inability and reluctance to control self-help projects across geographical space, regional inequality has been perpetuated. In other words, there is

absence of even distribution of self-help projects as communities embark on them based on their capabilities.

Nexus between Local Government and Rural Development

The local government, being the government nearest to the rural populace, is one of the best institutions for generating motivation and encouraging mobilization for self-help, as well as inducing the much needed wider participation of the local population in the decision-making process at the local level. It is estimated that rural local governments account for about 80 percent of the entire Nigeria population, and it is plausible to argue as pundits do; that the so-called third world is a rural world where any meaningful discussion of rural development really means not only talking of overall national development, but also because it is in the rural areas that the problem of inequitable distribution of resources or a marked lack of purchasing power and of grinding poverty in which the wretched members of society stagnate and stare one in the face with brutal clarity.

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

The research attempted to identify the role or place of local government in rural development from the perspective of being the closest tier of government to the people. It is

obvious from the arrangement and federal practice in Nigeria that local government are emasculated and have not been effectively positioned to play its constitutional roles, let alone play the roles it should in rural development. Self-help as an issue in rural development and the various approaches to rural development were discussed.

Local Government is the focus of government efforts at promoting development. To effectively develop, the people's efforts must be adequately mobilized. A Purposeful combination of local (peoples) efforts and energies with that of government with the objective of improving socioeconomic conditions and encouraging political participation are key factors in rural development.

2.1.6 Historical Background of Local Government Administration in Nigeria

The history of local government administration in Nigeria dates back to the colonial era. Due to the exigencies of that era and in a bid not to 'rock the boat' and create a situation where they would engage in physical battles with the locals who has well entrenched system of government, particularly in the northern part of the country, the colonialists introduced the indirect rule while the English version of local government was introduced in the Eastern and Western regions.

After independence in 1960, the imperative of local government system was again brought to the fore. The three geo-political regions continued with the existing system. Each regions adopted the system it deemed fit for its peculiarity. The north continued with the native authority system which revolved mostly around traditional rulers while the west and east operated English version of the Local Government system which had legally defined responsibility and elected majority of voluntary unpaid members and also members carrying out executive and administrative duties through the committee system.

Local governments system has taken different forms from one period to the other in Nigeria: We have the pre- colonial experiences culminating in different traditional political

system;-form the Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa political systems. We had the indirect rule system whereby such governments were being run through the traditional rulers, the chiefs or the warrant chiefs. After these, there had been series of reforms in the Nigerian local government system.

The 1976 reform and the 1979 constitution left unanswered what should be the definite role of traditional rulers. Secondly, the financial instability of the local Government councils somehow reduced them to more structural decorations as they could not perform the relation to the various functions that they were charged with. Thirdly, the wards for the election of councilors were exceptionally large, to the extent that some communities did not know their councilors. Apart from the fact that this development did not make political sense, it also defeated the purpose of the localness of Local Government Councils. It is thus evident that the emergent structure suffered from various problems which tended to undermine the performance of local governments. Thus, during the second republic (1979-1983), some of the state governments broke up or adjusted local government boundaries in order to carve out more favorable bases for their political survival and without due regard to their viability. Besides, some states, it is believed created many Local Government Councils within a state.

The Buhari Administration (December 1983 to August 1985), reduced the number of local government from 770 to the original 301 constitutionally approved, deflating the over bloated structure under the second republic. However, as a result of the apparent inadequacies in the entire system, the Federal Military Government set up a local Government Review Committee in 1984 under the chairmanship of Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki. The Dasuki Report noted that the problem inherent in the 1976 nation-wide local government reforms was more of operational lapses arising directly from the behavior or attitude of persons who operated the system rather than structural deficiency. It therefore, recommended that the multi-purpose single-tier structure of the then 301 local governments

was adequate as at the time and needed to be given a chance to function unfettered. As from 1986, the responsibility for posting and deployment of staff of local government service became vested in the ministries of local government. Finally, in spite of the Dasuki Committee's recommendation of a more meaningful role for traditional rulers in the running of local government, no concrete action in this regard was taken at the time. As a result of the new needs of local democracy and grassroots socio-economic development emphasized by the administration, and particularly the fact that old vices characteristics of the local government structure still existed, the federal government resorted to clearly spelling out the basis of local governments, especially as by 1987 the relationship between the states and local governments was still definably super-ordinate. This situation was compounded by the emergence of popularly elected local government chairmen and councilors from the local government election areas to enhance both citizenship participation and more meaningful service delivery at the local level. So as from march 1988, the federal government adopted some comprehensive and well-defined measures aimed at radically reforming the structure, finance and administration of local governments to make them viable and effective centers of development. (Bello 2010).

So as from march 1988, the federal government adopted some comprehensive and well-defined measures aimed at radically reforming the structure, finance and administration of local government viable and effective centers of development. Prominent in this regards, the federal government tinkered with the federal structure by creating new states and local governments in 1987. Consequently, both 1987 and 1991 exercises resulted in structural dislocation as some communities who felt aggrieved initially refused to give their full cooperation and support to the new councils. The demand for new local government structure was multi-tier; the main focal point could have been retained as headquarters while the various sections could have been constituted into lower units with specific functions.

Again, the institutions of democratically elected government councils have contained to be entrenched in the Nigerian constitution. In particular, each of the 774 local government units has a new constitutional status similar to those of states furthermore, whereas it was only the national assembly that had power to create new local government but by 1999 local governments reverted to being state government creations. Before 1999, the procedures for creating them were spelt out in the constitution, and made as those for creating new state governments. (Bello 2010).

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides in the Fourth Schedule the main functions of Local Governments in Nigeria as follows:

- (a) 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 and of the State are affected, and
 - (ii) proposals made by the said Commission or body;
- (b) collection of rates, radio and television licences; (c) establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for the destitute or infirm; (d) licensing of bicycles, trucks (other than mechanically-propelled trucks), canoes, wheel barrows and carts; (e) establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets, motor parks and public conveniences; (f) construction and maintenance of roads, streets, street lightings, drains and other public highways, parks, gardens, open spaces, or such public facilities as maybe prescribed from time to time by the House of Assembly of a State; (g) naming of roads and streets, and numbering of houses; (h) provision and maintenance of public conveniences, sewage and refuse disposal; (i) registration of all births, deaths and marriages; (j) 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

(k) control and regulation of: (i) out-door advertising and hoarding; (ii) movement and keeping of pets of all descriptions; (iii) shops and kiosks; (iv) restaurants, bakeries and other places for sale of food to the public, (v) laundries, and (vi) licensing, regulation and control of the sale of liquor.

Apart from these exclusive functions, the function of Local Governments shall include participation of such Councils in the government of a state as respects the following matters: 4 (a) the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education; (b) the development of agriculture and natural resources other than the exploitation of minerals; (c) the provision and maintenance of health services; and (d) such other functions as may be conferred on a local Government Council by the House of Assembly of the State.

As provided for in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Local Governments have functions and responsibilities assigned. Some of these functions are performed exclusively by the Local Government like the maintenance of cemeteries, markets and motor parks. On the other hand, some other functions and responsibilities are performed concurrently with the State Government. Among these concurrent functions are primary education, agriculture, health and any other functions that may be conferred on Local Government by the House of Assembly of the State. As can be seen, these various functions and responsibilities of Local Governments are quite enormous and demanding. The tragedy of the situation is that Local Governments have very limited and circumscribed sources of revenue to enable them execute meaningfully and effectively the functions and responsibilities assigned to them. Financial Resources of Local Governments.

After discussing the array of functions and responsibilities of Local Governments, it is necessary to examine the available financial resources of Local Governments. This exercise is to be done with a need to find out how adequate the financial resources available to Local Governments are, vis-à-vis the functions and responsibilities of Local Governments in Nigeria. Local Governments as a third tier government provide services and projects for the

people and communities at the grassroots level. As usual, Local Governments are therefore, Governments which are nearest to the people. The impact of Local Governments would, therefore, directly be felt by the people. In order to carry out these various functions and responsibilities, Local Governments derive their revenue from statutory allocations, grants, taxes and rates levied locally. Other sources of fund are licence fees and proceeds from hire and lease of Council properties and investments, including lands, markets, buildings and in some cases, commercial undertakings and businesses. Local Governments in Nigeria as of now derive their main revenue from allocation from the Federation Account. In most cases, revenue from the various internal sources are not fully exploited and accounted for. There are a lot of leakages from these sources of internal revenue which tend to have negative impact on the finances of Local Governments.

Local Governments as governments closest to the people are supposed to provide basic services and projects to the communities at the grassroots. Though revenue from the Federation Account is relatively high these days, the expected impact on the people in terms of provision of services and projects to the people are not commensurate with the allocations received. Some Local Governments have made some remarkable progress in the provision of social amenities to the people in the areas of road construction, markets, electricity, water supply like provision of boreholes, health, refuse collection and disposal etc. Other Local Governments have failed woefully in these areas in providing services, amenities and projects to the people and communities which they serve. The expectation of the people especially in the democratic dispensation is not met.

The Leaders:- It is necessary at this juncture to refer to the role and performance of leadership in Local Governments in order to ensure more efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency in the system. The type and quality of leaders in Local Governments are very crucial to the performance of the various functions and responsibilities assigned to Local Governments. For leaders in Local Governments to be

effective and efficient demand that the leaders must be well groomed and educated. They should be exposed and trained in modern development strategies. Leaders are also expected to be honest, dedicated and committed to their responsibilities and their obligations to the people and the Communities. They should consciously learn the art of governance at the grassroots.

For leadership to be efficient and effective in Local Governments, there is the need to guarantee regular and democratic change and at all times to ensure easy and effortless transition or change in the system. Such a situation would encourage the emergence of honest and dedicated leadership in Local Governments. It would also facilitate the development of the Local Government Areas as such successive leadership would like to leave enduring and outstanding legacies of their tenure or service. This procedure of regular transition in leadership can only be sustained in a democracy. It is therefore necessary that all hands should be put on deck to ensure the success of our nascent democracy.

The Officials of Local Governments;- Another major stakeholder in the performance of Local Governments is the corps of officials mainly career officials. For the success of Local Governments there is the dire need to ensure the recruitment of educated, trained and dedicated staff. In this regard, it is necessary to commend the role of the Local Government Service Commission, Edo State, in establishing high standards in the recruitment of staff to the State Local Government Service and the program of in-service training. There is need for training to be organized by the Local Government Service Commission to update the quality of its staff. It is hoped that the staff will appreciate and internalize the essence of the trainings. Usually, the Local Government Service Commission does the recruitment of all senior staff into the Local Government Service in the State. High standards are set like for example in case of Administrative and other related Cadres, officers are expected to first pass the Competitive Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) Examination before they are interviewed and, if successful, finally selected for appointment in the Local

Government Service. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness, such recruited staffs are placed on probation for two years. After successfully completing the probation and in some Cadres like Administrative Officers, they pass the Compulsory Examinations, they are finally considered for promotion subject, of course, to favourable assessment by their Superior Officers in their confidential reports. There is need to state that such administrative procedures and processes are put in place in order to ensure that dutiful, dedicated and effective officers are duly rewarded by way of promotion.

On the other hand, incompetent officers are either told to improve on their performance or are shown the way out of the service. Such an impartial procedure in the system makes for growth and viability of the entire System as dedicated workers are duly rewarded and conversely incompetent and dishonest officers earn their due punishments for their misdemeanor.

What is to be emphasized here is the need for officials to strive to be efficient and dedicated by acquiring the requisite education, training and retraining to enable them perform. Such knowledge needs to include the learning of the rules and regulations in the circumstance, officers should have and own copies of Financial Memoranda, the Constitution of the Country, bye-laws and other extant rules and regulations. A deep mastery of such rules and procedures would facilitate their job delivery and performance. Furthermore, they can become aware of their entitlements, rights and privileges. The employers' responsibilities are equally known to them. It makes for the good health and success of the Service. It is expected that a corps of educated, trained and diligent staff would be in a position to advance the course and progress of development in the Local Governments. A contented and satisfied workforce is

an asset to the establishment where the staff will be fulfilled if their aspirations are met in the Service. It would also reduce the incidence of corruption.

The Federal Government:- We have identified the Federal Government as a major stakeholder. In a federation, the various governments including the State Governments and Local Governments co-exist. The Federal Government provides the thrust and the drive for the country and in the process its actions impact on Local Governments. The functions of Local Governments listed above include concurrent and exclusive functions. Some functions are quite beyond the scope and reach of not only Local Governments but also State Governments. In such situations, the Federal Government's interventions would be indispensable. Such areas include the provision and maintenance of education, health, judiciary, transportation, communications, research, technology, tourism, security etc. The major inter-State highways passing through Local Government Areas are provided and maintained by the Federal Government. In cases of tertiary education and health, the Federal Government directly comes in. In Communications, like telephone and newly introduced Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM), the Federal Government comes in directly. Post offices and Postal Services are also provided by Federal Government. Security which includes Police and other Security Services are provided by the Federal Government. External publicity and marketing of local historical monuments, heritage, culture, arts and crafts are undertaken by such Federal Ministries and its Agencies like the Ministry of External Affairs and National Commission for Museums and Monuments on behalf of Local

Governments to attract patronage either in the form of tourism or export. Such actions on the part of the Federal Government have direct impact on the performance of Local Governments.

The State Government;- The State Governments can directly impact on Local Governments by providing the necessary guidelines and structure for governance at Local Government level. The State Government, in order to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, probity and accountability in Local Governments, puts in place some measures of control

and monitoring. Such include the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, the Local Government Service Commission, the State Auditor-General (Local Government) and State Local Government Alarm Committee. Through these various bodies and agencies the State Government is able to monitor the activities of Local Government and ensure the enthronement of efficiency, effectiveness, probity and accountability. The State Government also provides radio communications equipment to link the state capital with all local governments in order to ensure maximum contact with the Local Government. Such an arrangement guarantee free-flow of information to and from local Government in the State.

The State House of Assembly:- By the provision of Section 7 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the system of local government by democratically elected Local Government Councils is guaranteed and accordingly, the Government of every state shall ensure their existence under a Law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such Councils. The State House of Assembly is a stakeholder in ensuring that good laws are made for Local Governments. In such a situation, the success of Local Governments will depend on the Local Government Law passed by the State House of Assembly,

Goals of Local Government as Stipulated by 1976

According to the 1976 Local Government guidelines reform, local government has four goals to be achieved;

- (a) To make appropriate services and development responsive to local wishes and initiative by developing or delegating them to local representatives bodies.
- (b) To facilitate the exercise of democratic self-government close to the local levels of our society and to encourage initiative and leadership potential.
- (c) To mobilization human and material resources through the involvement of members of the public in their local development.

- (d) To provide a two-way channel of communication between local communities and government (both State and Federal).

2.1.7 Developmental Projects in AMAC

Abuja Municipal Area Council has focused on a number of developmental projects. To start with, education which is an age long veritable industry in the history of man kind and a major catalyst for development, is receiving the greatest attempt. For instance, library was constructed at AMAC and provision of tables, chairs, desk, benches and other infrastructural material which cost millions of naira.

Furthermore, the promotion of good health for the people has also received the attention of the local government. The local government make sure that the health are constantly being supplied with adequate drugs, dressing and equipment. For instance, there was an extension of medical store and offices in 2010 which cost N8,000,000.00 as well as the extension of maternity and health centre which cost #11,000,000.00.

Apart from all these, good roads, it is clear is a necessity for easy movement of farm produce from villages and farms to the market areas. Roads also facilitates movement of persons and accelerate development. It is in realization of these facts that AMAC has placed high premium on roads development. For that purpose in 2010, #9797,971.70 was used to tarred, construct and rehabilitate roads as well as purchase of roads equipment such as grader, tipper, land rover and pay loader.

This is because of its commitment provide modern comfortable markets to its citizenry as well as optimizing its revenue earning sources, the local government in 2010 constructed block open and lock up market stall in AMAC, which cost #9,555,200.00 as well as construction of block of shopping complex at AMAC.

AMAC in 2010 and by May 8, 2010, fill the yawning gap between Nigerian agricultural programmes and has the following aims and objectives to rural dwellers.

1 .Active support for and promotion of the consideration of scattered fragmented peasant farm in order to encourage the evolution of economic size farm holdings and villages that will reap the economics of scale in the provision of social services and agricultural technologies.

2. Provision of the following by AMAC:

(i) Farm land

(ii) Fertilizer to farmers

(iii) Loans given to peasant farmers through (Agricultural Dvelopment Bank.

(iv) Incentives to farmers, and

(v) Creation of market centers.

3. Provision of strategic support for land development which art present constitute one of the most severe infrastructural bottlenecks hindering the development of viable farm products holding the farmers.

4. Expansion of production capacity in agriculture and again export capacity in agriculture and again export capacity in abundant oil resources in a manner that will ensure minimum soil and environment degradation.

5. Provision income and employment opportunities for rural people in order to raise rural incomes and general living standards.

6. Skills Acquisition Programme:Skill acquisition programmes to the needs of the whole economy from individuals and grassroots community level, through the levels of local government area of training on the followng:

i. Snail farming

ii. Fish farming

iii. Hair dressing

iv. Handset repairing

v. Tailoring

vi. Beads making

vii. Shoe & leather making

viii. Basket weaving

7. Provision of Community Bank.: The bank was provided to serve only its immediate community for rural development. This bank was introduced in 1991 and being owned by Community Development Association, patriotic groups, Unions, Cooperatives Societies and Indigenes also have one third while the Federal Government through DFFRI owns one third. The following are the major functions of the bank.

(a) The rapid enhancement of the development of productive activities in the rural areas and hence the improvement of the economic status of both the rural people and the rural areas.

(b) These banks also concentrate on receiving deposit and giving credits to customers within the community. Their credit emphasis are however to be on agricultural and rural industrialization projects.

Furthermore, the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education as well as the maintenance of markets and motor parks. Local government as a third their Government provide services and projects for the people and communities at the grass roots level. As usual, AMAC are therefore, government which are nearest to the people.

The impact of the Local Government therefore, directly be felt by the people in term of development of Agriculture and natural resources other than the exploitation of minerals also creates job opportunities for more teachers.

In order to carry out these various functions and responsibilities, AMAC derive their revenue from statutory allocations, grants, taxes and rates levied locally. Other sources of fund are licence fees and proceeds from

hire and lease of council properties and investments, including lands, markets, building, commercial understanding and businesses.

Education:Adult education is essentially grass root movement,and therefore a proper and legitimate activity of the AMAC.The local government is the one recognized by constitution to undertake certain activities including the Organization and Administration of primary and adult education.

The management of adult education by the local government in Nigeria dated as far back as the 1940s and 1950s and so to eradicate ignorance,povertry and diseases.Provision and maintenance of infrastructures such as roads,public conveniences and formulation of economic planning and development schemes to mention but a view.These have been termed as exclusive and mandatory functions of Keffi local government also have concurrent functions such as provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education,development of agriculture and natural resources; provision and maintenance of health services. There are also extractive functions through which internally generated revenue can be boosted.Educative functions which directive at changing negative traditional attitudes and dispositions which drive social and economic progress.

2.2 Empirical Review

This section will for analytical convenience discuss the works of Bankole (1995), Abimbola (1999), Kunle (2004), Olalekun (1999), Mathew (1999) and Akande (2001). Bankole (1995) studied Self-Help Projects: A study of Agege LGA, of Lagos State. The main purpose of the study was to find out the nature of local government developmental projects in Agege LGA, of Lagos State. With a population of two thousand people, and a sample of 250 members of Agege Town Unions, representing 25% of the population, the respondents for the study were chosen by simple random sampling technique. The findings of the study revealed that self-help community development projects, as perceived by members of Agege Town Union may work well, if there are no village conflicts, non-involvement of women, mass illiteracy and inadequate mobilization. Although, this work studied self-help

projects in Agege LGA, of Lagos State, it has relevance to the present study, especially as it concern local government and development.

Abimbola (1999) conducted a study on Mobilization for Community Development: The Policy and Implementation Context, in Iwopin LGA, of Ondo State. The study was to find out how rural people of Iwopin local government area were mobilized for community development. To illicit data, a simple random sampling technique was used. The sample for this particular study was 150, which represent about 25% of the total population. The researcher analyzed the data collected using simple percentages, multiple response and weighted mean of responses to the question. The finding of the study reveals that the strategies for community development mobilization could come through mass media, people's participation, popular theatre and community education.

Kunle (2004) studied the Problems of Educational Planning in Ogun State. The broad purpose of the study was to find out the problems of educational planning in Ogun State. Five research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. A questionnaire, which was the main instrument of the study was developed and administered to 150 staff members of the Ministry of Education with university degree. The whole population was used for the study because of the small number and as such, there was no sampling. The instrument was built on a 4 point rating scale and the items were 20 in number and were treated under 5 clusters. Generally, the result of the study showed that prompt timing, use of non-experts, noninvolvement of the people and lack of dedicated members in the planning can pose as problem to effective planning. The study, though on problems of educational planning in Ogun state has relevance to the present study especially on the area of planning process of grassroots road and other community development projects.

Olaekun (1999) conducted a study on the strategies for effective implementation of community development projects/programme in Mushin area of Lagos State. The study was

meant to find out the strategies for effective implementation of community development in Mushin Area of Lagos State. To obtain data, balloting was used to select two hundred members of the population representing 25%. Also, simple percentage was employed to analyze the result. The findings of the study reveals that the strategies for effective implementation of CD projects are mobilization, self-help, government projects in the community, community organization and direct labour.

Mathew (1999) did a research on a survey of community participation in the water project in Uhunwere in Igbo-Eze South LGA of Enugu State. The study was to assess the nature and extent of Uhunwere community participation in the water project. The researcher sampled one hundred (106) which represents one third (1/3) of the members of the community employing questionnaires and structured oral interview to collect data. The findings of this study asserts that the members of the community can participate in CD project through donation of money and material, participating in labour, paying levies, through adult education process, involving the people in project identification, planning and implementation, and evaluation.

Akande (2001) conducted a study on the factors inhibiting against CD in Bwari Area Council of Abuja. The main purpose of the study was to examine the factors that militates against CD efforts in Bwari Area Council of FCT. To obtain data, a simple random sampling method, frequency, percentage and weighted mean were used with the sample of two hundred. The findings of the study reveals that among the factors inhibiting CD efforts are poor leadership, poor communication, lack/inadequate fund, imposition of development project on the people, poor mobility, lack of government interest, inadequate trained development personnel and inadequate logistics.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning for this study is systems theory. David Easton defined "System theory as a complex whole which has several or different parts which functions differently or interrelatedly for the survival of the entire system" the system theory is chosen, because it seeks to explain developmental process through the use of David Easton's system analysis. The system theory sees development as an output of the local government. According to Ikelegbe (1991) a system is a whole that functions as a whole by virtue of its several interrelated parts. David Easton is the first major political scientist who has developed a systematic framework on the basis of the systems analysis approach for the study of politics instead of merely adapting it from anthropology or sociology. "the system theory sees development as an output of the local government.

The output itself is conceived as the result of various environment variable acted upon the principle system" (Barry, 1997).

The theory that is relevant to this study, the system theory is chosen because it seeks to explain developmental process through the use of David Easton's system analysis. In view of all the above reasons advanced, the literature review based on Eastonian framework is relevant to this study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Research design addresses the planning of a scientific enquiry; it has to do with designing a strategy for finding out something. A research design guides the investigator in the process of collecting data, it is the blue print of research. In this study, after searching the literature for an appropriate methodology and considering the nature of our study environment and the objectives of local government within the period (2005-2015) it has been found appropriate to use the survey research design for this study.

In the words of Obodoeze (2001), the survey research refers to an investigation into certain things or events that exist or occur at the time of the research and connected with some problem situation that is felt over a wide area with the view to ascertaining what exist at the time of the research in their natural settings.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

Population can be defined as the number of people living in a country or any given geographical region or area of a particular period of time or any group of individual that have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher. In this case, population covers all the local Government staff and the people living in AMAC.

This study focuses on AMAC which has an area of 373 square kilometres (144sqm) and with a population of 132,641 at the 2006 census, that is, Males : 61,115. Females : 71,526. Of course, because it is impossible and impracticable to handle this magnitude of people, science has availed the researcher of techniques for use in such studies. We used random sampling of technique to obtain a sample of 235 to study upon which we established confidence that our findings could be generalized to the whole of AMAC.

Random Sampling technique was used to obtain the number of respondents for this study. Globally, organizations are structured into different departments or units. AMAC is structured into four (4) departments namely: Agriculture, Health, Finance, and General services. Each of these department is made up of some sizable staff population. Through purposive sampling, every department was represented in the sample. In each department, through a random sampling process, we make use of random digits to pick out 20 percent of the staff and indigene population using the Osuala's (2006) process of sampling size.:

3.3 Methods of Data Collection

The survey method with the instrumentality of the structured questionnaire was used to collect data. The documented analysis of the historical evolution of the town through concentration of relevant texts and files available at the AMAC Headquarters. The questionnaire method had been administered to cover ten-wards in AMAC so that the information there in was made to be representative. The secondary information was drawn from AMAC library, AMAC statistics and research department and other published material from AMAC..

3.4 Techniques for Data Analysis

This section tries to analyze the data collected for this research work. However, for this purpose simple percentage method is used for the analysis of data. Responses are tabulated and the differences in the percentage served as the basis for the analysis. To provide room for clarity, the section A, the status, educational background, Age and social economic variable of the respondents would be examined, whereas section B will deal with respondents to the research questions formulated.

3.5 Justification of Methods

The researcher makes use of questionnaires method of data collection in getting useful information and facts and Figures that will enable him carry out the research project at hand. Questionnaire are extensively used by the researcher to obtain facts about past, present and anticipated events, conditions and practices and to make enquiries concerning attitude and opinion. At the end of author's field work, the researcher was able to get facts and figures from the respondents.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation

For better understanding of the study, it is essential to present the developmental projects conducted by AMAC. The study therefore dwell entirely on the exposition of the whole institutions that is AMAC. The study presented the origin and birth of AMAC; objectives and functions, the organizational structure of the institution, relevance, contributions and problems among others. The study equally presented all the projects conducted by the local government area.

Projects Implementation in AMAC

S/N	Project types	Location of Project	Estimated Cost	Development Stage
1.	Health centre	Jabi	30,000,000	Completed
2.	Rural Electrification	Utako	45,000,000	On- going
3.	Borehole	Mabushi	10,000,000	Completed
4.	Market Shops	Utako	70,000,000	Completed
5.	Class rooms	All communities	120,000,000	Yet to be Completed
6.	Town hall	Wuye	5,000,000	Yet to start
7.	Chief palace	Area 11 Garki	10,000,000	Completed
8.	Rural Feeder Roads	All communities	Unestimated	On-going
9.	Bridge	Kishiri	75,000,000	Completed
10.	Culverts	All communities	50,000,000	On-going
11.	Cottage Industry (Block Industry)	All communities	106,000,000	Completed
12.	Town Hall	Kado	Unestimated	Abandoned

Source: Field Survey, 2020

The data presented above showed that AMAC has so many projects going on, some are completed while some are abandoned. It is clear that the communities within the local government need all these facilities, in turn this will bring development to the people. As indicated above, the roads have helped the market women and farmers amongst others to move freely, and equally reduced the cost of living of the people of AMAC. More importantly, the school projects implemented by the local government is a wellcome development to the people of AMAC. The indigenes of the local government area no more travel distance to acquire education. Electricity, water, Townhall, Cottage and many others have been implemented by the local government area. This has really brought development to the people of AMAC..

4.2 Data Analysis and Result

Composition of the Respondents

Each community comprises of ten respondents where an attempt was made to explore the variable of the respondents under the following: Age, Education, Sex and Occupation.

According to the data, 56 respondents, representing (56%) are between ages 18-29 while 39 respondents, representing (39%) are between age bracket of 30-49. It was only 5 respondents (5%) that belongs to 50 years and above. The data are presented in the table below.

Table 4.1 Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-29	56	56
30-49	39	39
50 Above	05	05
TOTAL	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2020.

As it was evident from the table 4.2, most of the respondents from the cited areas are educated or literate and that is why only 4 respondents, representing (4%) have no formal education, figure 1% have adult education while figure 5% of the respondents have primary education, figure 24% also have secondary education, figure 56% have post secondary education while figure 10% of the respondents represent the column 'Others' in the questionnaire.

Table 4.2: Educational Distribution of the Respondents.

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	04	04
Adult education	01	01
Primary education	05	05
Secondary education	24	24
Post secondary education	56	56
Others	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

Sources; Field Survey, 2020

According to the data, more than half of the total respondents 75 (75%) interviewed were male and less than half 25 respondents (25%) of them were female. These proportion were determined by the researcher with the assumption that the awareness in male is more than that of the female in the study area.

Table 4.3: Sex Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	75	75
Female	25	25
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From the data, it is clear that the researcher was very careful in administering his questionnaires and this is why almost all the sectors are represented. None of the sectors of the respondents take more than half of the responses. 5% of the respondents are farmers; 13 respondents (13%) are teachers; 18 respondents (18%) are civil servants apart from those in the teaching line; 15 respondents (15%) represent them which includes drivers, repairers, vendors, students, technicians, typist, food vendors, and other that cannot be specifically identified with any of the previous sectors indicated before.

Table 4.4 Occupational Distribution of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	5	5
Teacher	13	13
Civil Servant	18	18
Trader	15	15
Others	49	49
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

4.2 Data Analysis And Results

Research Question one: To what extent has AMAC Stimulated Development in the Area?

From the below table 4.5, about 79 respondents (79%) out of 100, whose opinions were sampled, believed that AMAC has stimulated development in the area. This can be attested to as they said "yes" to the question asked.

They cited many projects embarked upon by the Local Government; and those other projects (completed). While about 15 respondents (15%) said "No" to the same question as they claimed they are yet to see any meaningful development in the area. Meanwhile, 6 respondents (6%) were uncertain about the question asked so far.

Table 4.5: Analysis of the Respondents View

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	79	79%
No	15	15%
I don't know	06	06
Total	100	100

Source:Field Survey,2020

Research Question Two: Does AMAC Have Necessary Facilities For Rural Development of the Area?

The table below shows that almost 82 respondents, representing (82%) believed that AMAC has the necessary facilities for rural development. When the question above was asked, the group of people gave 'yes' as their answer as they cited the following as parts of the numerous facilities possessed by the local government. (i) Road Networks, (ii) functional market), (iii) cold room (iv) Abatoir, (v) Food storage facilities and warehouses etc.

The respondents believed that the road network will guarantee easy access to the market, while the warehouses and other food storage facilities will help in preserving agricultural products, such as cassava, cocoyam, potato, guinea corn, cowpea and cash crops like cocoa, palm oil, kolanut, coconut and varieties of fruits. Some of them pointed out the primary and secondary school established and being controlled by the local Education Authority (L.E.A) under the local government as necessary facilities for rural development. Meanwhile, 11 respondents (11%) said 'No' to the same question; they believed that the facilities in AMAC are not sufficient enough to bring about meaningful development in the area. While some of them claimed the facilities in AMAC are outdated ones. Whereas,

about 7 respondents (7%) were uncertain about the same question as they refused to make any comment on the issue. In this case, “ I don’t know”, was their answer.

Table 4.6: Analysis of the Respondents View.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	82	82
No	11	11
I don't know	07	07
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Research Question Three: What are the Strategies For Improved Performance of the AMAC for Rural Transformation?

The table below pointed out clearly that 76 respondents(76%) accepted there are strategies for improved performance of the AMAC. This group of people, who said ‘Yes’ to the question, believed that AMAC.s different skills acquisition programmes; such as cloth making, beads making, hair dressing, computer training, snail and fish farming as well as special entrepreneurship programmes for youths etc, are major strategies for improved performance of AMAC. Some of them believed that it was the training offered in the information technology that had brought about an improved performance in AMAC. Some of them went further to confirm to us the crucial role the mechanized farming, introduced by the Local Government, has played in the development of the area.

Meanwhile, another 18 respondents, representing (18%) did not believe there are strategies which has led to improved performance of AMAC as they all ticked ‘No’ as their answer to the same question. About 6 respondents, representing (6%) were uncertain about whether any strategy has brought any improvement in the performance of AMAC or not.

Table 4.7: Analysis of the Respondents View.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	76	76
No	18	18
I don't know	06	06
Total	100	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

4.3 Discussion of Findings

In this research, both the primary and secondary sources of gathering information have been employed so as to have a first-hand information on the subject matter of the research. This is the more reason why the responses given by our respondents such as the farmers, teachers, civil servants and traders etc, have been analyzed using tables and simple percentage method where responses are tabulated to empirically test the validity of all the questions asked in the research. Firstly, looking at the first research question has AMAC stimulated development in the area? "One can authoritatively conclude that there is a strong relationship between infrastructures and development in the rural areas.

This statement holds true and is a statement of fact. This is so, because from our findings and field work in table 4.5 of the research, the number of respondents who believed that AMAC has stimulated development in the area was very high. No wonder this percentage of respondents, in the course of the interview, amounted to about 79%, where some of the respondents cited numerous infrastructural development as potentials for rural development. Meanwhile, on the other hand about 15 respondents (15%) said 'No' and blamed the inability of AMAC to stimulate rural development on bad leadership style which still runs into corruption. These respondents believed that corruption has eaten deep into every department of AMAC where money meant for capital projects are being diverted

to private accounts of the executive chairman and other members of his cabinet in the local government.

In the course of the interview, some of these respondents made the researcher understand how some items and materials supplied by World Bank to boost agricultural activities in the rural area have been diverted to private farms of the leaders in the local government. Whereas, these items such as : tractors, catapillar, fertilizes etc are what the farmers in the area needed to carry out large scale farming in the area so as to boost the economy of the rural area. But, unfortunately, the items are converted into the private use of the leaders who use them in their own farms and later sell them out to unsuspecting farmers. So, from the above analysis, about 79 respondents (79%) strongly cited "infrastructural development" as the major cause of development in the rural area.

In another way, the remaining respondents, who were uncertain, and who did not believe that AMAC has stimulated Development in the area, constituted only 21% of the total respondents where a total number of 79% represented those who see infrastructural as an ingredient of development in the area. In the same vein, taking a critical look at the second question of this research in table 4.6, "Does AMAC have the necessary facilities for rural development of the area?" it is very obvious from the responses of different individuals in table 4.6 that there abound numerous facilities owned by the local government to carry out meaningful development in the area in question. On the field, in the course of the interview, about figure 82% of the respondents strongly agreed that these facilities include; good road network, functional markets, coldrooms, Abatoirs, food storage facilities and warehouses etc. They believed that all these facilities are needed in the development of rural area as they will play one role or the other in most importantly the economic sector of AMAC.

Some of the respondents pointed out the investment of AMAC on the educational development of the area as one of the necessary facilities that will bring about meaningful

development in the area. This percentage of respondents believed that the investment in primary, secondary, technical education and tertiary institutions will provide manpower that will become readily available to make use of some of these facilities that will give birth to rural development. In another phase, about figure 18% of the respondents were uncertain, and did not agree with the answer given above. Rationalizing this, we discovered that they are less than the total percentage of those who believed that there are numerous necessary facilities in AMAC that can facilitate rural development. So, the responses from table 4.6 above had validated the fact that there is a strong relationship between necessary facility or infrastructure and rural development as they will serve as basic requirements for meaningful development in the area. Critically examining the third question of the research which was "Are there strategies for improved performance of AMAC?", table 4.7 presented us with different responses given by respondents amounted to about figure 76% who said different skill acquisition programmes embarked upon by the local government have been the major strategy for improved performance of AMAC; according to them, this programme has prepared some of the participants for better opportunities which had allowed them to contribute their own quota to the socio economic and political development of the area.

In the same manner, some of the respondents believed that the training in the area of information technology (I.T) by AMAC is what has led to improved performance in the area as this training has gone a long way in curbing corruption to some extent in some financial areas of the local government.

The information technology training received according to this group of people, who constituted about figure 76% of the total respondents, has helped the staff of the local government to do away with the old way of keeping files records in the office. The training has helped them to keep the record of the projects embarked upon by the local government. This has helped them to track down the number of executed projects and the one that are yet to be executed. While the rest of the respondents did not agree with the

question; they believed that there were no strategies used by the local government to improve performance in the area. This group of the respondents in the research, represents about figure 24% of the total respondents which is less than figure 50% of the total respondents. Where the group which attributed different skill acquisition programmes and the information technology training to the strategies for improved performance of AMAC amounted to figure 76% of the total respondents of the research.

From the above analysis, one can authoritatively admit that impartation of knowledge, in form of education and some kinds of skill acquisition programmes, has a strong relationship with better performance in any organisation as this will serve as requirements for what will lead to meaningful development in that establishment. So, in the case of AMAC, it is believed based on the responses from the research, that this impartation of knowledge has led to improved performance in the rural area of AMAC.

Local government as an instrument of rural development has been tested and proven beyond reasonable doubt in this research work, using AMAC as a case study. Investigating the first research question in this research work, it is found that there is a strong relationship between infrastructures and development in AMAC where abound numerous natural resources such as lime stone bitumel, colombite etc, needed in the development of rural areas. It is discovered in the course of our investigation that there is a lot of corrupt activities going on in the management of some of these natural resources in the local government.

This can be seen in the way money meant for the development of the above resources has been syphoned by the politicians and local government officials who are at the helm of affairs in AMAC.

Besides, money meant for capital projects in the local government area being diverted to private individual accounts belonging to some of these politicians who control the resources of the local government.

The corruption ,in this sense,has eaten deep into every sector and department in the local government as some equipments needed to bring about meaningful development in the agricultural sector of the rural area, have been convert to the private use of the politicians and some local government officials of AMAC.

Looking at the second resarch question of the research which carried out an investigation into whether AMAC has the necessary facilities for rural development of the area,it is clearly discorvered that there is a strong relationship between necessary facilities and meaningful development in the rural area.This is because some basic necessary facilities such as good road network,functional market,schools etc,will serve as strong foundation for meaningful development in the area.

Lastly,tested and proven beyond reasonable doubt in this research,is the third research question which shows that both the human and natural resources of a rural area,are the potentialities such an area has to develop itself.In the course of the investigation in the research,it is found out that human resources discovered from different skills aquisition programmes as well as the information technology training organised by AMAC, remained major strategies for improved performance of the area.

In conclusion,it is very important to say here that our investigation clearly shows,in this research,that corruption is one of the major obstacles hindered local government from becoming an instrument of rural development in Nigeria;it is also found out that provision of necessary facilities or infrastructure in rural area will go a long way in bringing about meaningful development in rural areas in Nigeria;and,finally,we found in the course of our investigation,that establishment of schools and different skill aquisition programmes as well as I.C.T will help in improving the performance of AMAC.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The investigation carried out on the topic of this research which is "local government as an instrument of rural development, a study of AMAC, further delved into some issues that are relevant to the topic in question. The issues are further categorised into five different chapters which are as follows:

The introduction part of the research which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, as well as definition of terms.

In the literature review section, the review of some literatures relevant to the subject matter of this research work were carried out. Some of the issues reviewed here include; concept of development, concept of rural development, concept of local government administration as well as the theoretical frame work used in the research.

Furthermore, the research methodology used in the research is highlighted and explained in order to understand various methods used to arrive at a conclusion which is based on popular public opinions. Therefore, the research methodology used in this research include; research design, population and sample technique, methods of data collection, procedure for data analysis and model specification, and finally, justification of methods, and summary.

In addition, data were presented and analysed from their original form. This was done using the field work to present and analyse the responses of the respondents so as to provide answers to all the research questions asked in the research. In doing this, the results of the field work carried out by the research was presented, using tables to drive home its points, where simple percentage method was used, and responses tabulated for the purpose of empirical testing.

Finally, the researcher summarised virtually, in details, everything that had been discussed from the beginning of this research work to the end.

5.2 Conclusion

The government, as we all know, is seen as the machinery through which the state power is used to provide goods and services to the general public in any given society. In today's society, the government can be categorized into three different levels; viz a viz; federal, state and local government. Therefore, the idea of local government, in this case, is to bring the governmental power closer to the people in the rural area, so that the people, also, can enjoy the same social amenities, goods and services as well as other developmental projects available at the federal and state government.

This is the more reason why local government is seen as an instrument of rural development to reduce the responsibilities of both the federal and state government to some extent in nation building. However, in carrying out these responsibilities, using AMAC as a case study, the government at the local level is faced with a number of constraints which had hindered it from effectively carrying out the function of developing rural areas.

No wonder, in the research, it is discovered and confirmed that corruption constitutes one of these challenges slowing down the speed of development in the rural areas, especially, in AMAC where it is gathered that money meant for developmental projects are diverted to private accounts of the so called politicians who are at the helm of affairs; where, also it is gathered that equipments, meant for agricultural activities in the area, are diverted to the private farms of these selfish and corrupt leaders.

In the other way, there is a mixed feeling as there are other good things done in the local government that had helped in improving performances in developmental projects. Some of these include the skill acquisition programmes and training in the information and

communication technology undergone by the staff and indigenes of the local government courtesy AMAC.

The idea really brings development to the area as some of the youths in the local government become engaged in activities that bring money into their pockets and food to their tables. Secondly, the infrastructures such as road, market, storage facilities etc, also, help in booming the socio-economic activities in the local government area of AMAC. In conclusion, as a matter of fact, although, local government can be seen as an instrument of rural development, but it is very important for all the local government areas in Nigeria to kill corruption now; a canker worm that can destroy everything that has been laboured for in the area over the years, if it is not killed or eradicated in the system.

5.3 Recommendations

Having identified some factors that can hinder the local government from becoming an instrument of rural development, and those factors that can bring about meaningful development in rural areas in Nigeria, the researcher has, therefore, recommended the following as urgent steps to proffer quick solutions to the phenomena:

- (i) The issue of corruption should be treated as a serious criminal case in Nigeria where those local government officials and politicians found guilty are sentenced to death. This judgement will serve as a lesson to other public officials who may want to perpetrate the act of corruption in their various official capacities.
- (ii) There should be effective monitoring of funds released to local government by the federal government through the state government. That is, a mechanism should be put in place to highlight the number of projects to be executed by the local government within a stipulated time.
- (iii) The local government should also ensure that all revenues collected are accounted for so as to effectively and judiciously use it for the development of the rural area. A new

way and method of collecting revenue must be fashioned – out in such a way that the revenue collected is saved in a separate account that can be accessed only when developmental needs arise.

- (iv) There should be seminars, workshops and training of all kinds that will improve the performance of both the senior and junior staff of the local government. This exercise should take place at least twice in a year so as to keep the staff updated on the current skills needed in carrying out their official duties.
- (v) The local government should be autonomous as this will help them make use of all revenues generated in the area for the development of the area. The autonomy should be done in such a way that the state government should not interfere with the developmental projects in the area. But, in doing this, only the federal government should be allowed to supervise and monitor the developmental projects at the local government level.
- (vi) AMAC and other local government in Nigeria must look for means by which people can really participate in the development process and thereby utilize the resources available to them as this will go a long way to help people understand how the government is run.
- (vii) The local government should always look for means to publicly enlighten the people on the need to pay their taxes regularly so as to use them for development purposes in the area.

5.4 Limitations of the study

A number of limitations were encountered in the course of carrying out this research.

The major ones include:

Inadequate financing, data distribution and collection also posed problem because of non cooperative attitude of some respondents.

However, time as well as academic engagements have made covering the institution in its entirety impossible. In the same vein, extracting information from these principal officers is quite difficult as some of these information are classified as top secret.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

The researcher has suggested that further investigation be carried-out into what can be the problems or challenges that can stop local government from becoming an instrument of rural development. In addition, a comprehensive investigation should be carried-out into various ways through which local government can generate revenues in rural areas to finance her own projects.

Finally, various measures that can be used to monitor and check the activities of local government should be investigated.

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Appendix

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

Faculty of Administration,

Department of Public Administration

Dear Respondent,

I am a postgraduate student in the above named institution conducting a research on "Local Government as an Instrument of Rural Development: A Study of Abuja Municipal Area Council.

Kindly assists to complete this questionnaire which will help me in carrying out a research project to fulfill one of the requirements for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration. Any information given will be confidentially treated. Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours Sincerely,

Jide Ofor Micheal Chigbo

QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS

Fill in the blank spaces or tick [✓] as appropriate.

1. Sex,
 - a. Male []
 - b. Female []
2. Age.....
3. Marital Status
 - a. Single []
 - b. Married []
4. Religion,
 - a. Islam []
 - b. Christianity []
 - c. Traditionalist []
5. Place of work and office held.....
6. Are you an indigene of AMAC?
 - a. Yes []
 - b. No []
7. If No,for how long have you been residing in the Local Government Area?.....
8. What projects are available in your community?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
9. Who provided these projects?
 - a. Local Government []

- b. The People []
- c. The State Government []
- d. Other private individuals []

10. What percentage of the fund was provided by AMAC?

.....

11. The Projects provided by the Local Government are they functional?

- a. Yes []
- b. No []
- c. I don't know []

12. What do you think are the obstacles to the development of AMAC?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

13. How do you think these problems could be solved?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

14. Do you believe in commercial effort in rural development?

- a. Yes []
- b. No []
- c. I don't know []

15. What is the source of Revenue in AMAC?

- a. Government []
- b. Internal []

c. Don't know []

16. Do you think improvement in implementation could enhance policy outcome?

a. Yes []

b. No []

17. How or why?

.....

.....

18. What is the Likely Cause of Inadequacy of Funds?

a. Embezzlement []

b. Mismanagement []

c. Don't know []

19. What are the best strategies to adopt in order to make the local government do more for

the people?

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