

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.
(A CASE STUDY OF SOKOTO SOUTH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA 2011-2015)**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This project has been read and certified by the undersigned.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my father, Alhaji Abubakar Bashir and my good mothers Hajiya Luba Shehu Na'Ige, whose prayers and dedication towards learning brought me to what I am today.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All praise and thanks be to almighty Allah for keeping me alive, strong and fit to see this great challenges. Though so many of us started but only those whom God has destined will finish and made it to the last. Alhamdulillah.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

Local government being the third tier of government in Nigeria is established to ensure development in the rural area. The central purpose of local government is to make findings on governmental presence at the grass roots. There has been series of conferences by leading scholars of local government to find out the extent to which local government has been able to provide basic amenities to the rural populace. The development of rural areas strategies is important in the achievement of any appreciable growth, of the non-industrialized societies, like Nigeria. In view of the above, varying policies, theories, and techniques to tackle rural poverty were adopted in Nigeria by various governments.

However, it has been assumed that a three tier arrangement, federal, state and local will help remove such factors hampering developmental activities at the grass root level, and help transform that marginal segment of rural areas into our national life by providing them with social and economic amenities equally enjoyed by urban dwellers. Furthermore, it will help bring the government closer to the grass roots (Santa, 1986).

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Local government is the lowest level of societal organization and it's charged with the responsibility of extending governmental operations to the grass root. It also has

responsibility for making the people at the grass root have the sense of belonging to the nation through the developmental activities.

Given the structure, autonomy and financial resource of Sokoto South Local Government.

121. The study is to examine

1. The role Sokoto South Local Government play in integrated rural development.
2. Are the people really feeling the impact of the local government.
3. The extent to which Sokoto South Local Government has ensured development at the peripheral level.

1.3 Research Question

The following research questions became relevant to the study:

1. How can the role of Sokoto South Local government can be analysed?
2. Does relationship between the LG and the communities towards fostering integrated development exists?
3. What are the challenges faced by Sokoto South Local government in rural development?
4. To what extend can development be ensured at the grass root level.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1. The purpose of this study is to analyse the role of Sokoto South Local government in rural development.

2. To appraise the relationship that exists between the local government and the communities towards fostering integrated development.
3. To highlight challenges faced by Sokoto South Local Government.
4. To suggest ways to ensure development at the grass root.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research work is to contribute to discovering and finding out the good intentions of local government to transform rural areas and bring the government nearest to their door steps. It is hope that the findings of this study will enable the government to plan and implement structural changes capable of expanding and modernizing rural infrastructure as well as involving the community in government activities.

It is imperative in view of the above therefore to have an in-depth study of local government in Sokoto state in general and Sokoto South in particular in order to identify areas of government activities. The significance of this study also lies in the fact that it will serve the purpose of contributing to knowledge as well as provide a launch pad for further studies.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the study

This work deals with the assessment of Sokoto south local government in the area of rural development between 2011 and 2015. The work is likely to face some limitations. The bulk of such problems may actually lie with data collection; the researcher might face the problem of co-operation of some of the local government staff and rural communities. Time and financial factors which also constituted the greatest to

the researcher crippled his effort in going into some areas within local government necessary for this study. In view of the above, the study is confined to the following towns in Sokoto south local government area. These towns include Sarkin Zamfara A and B Sarkin Adar A and B, Gagi A and B town.

1.7 Literature Review

Several works and research have been conducted on the concept of Local Government and Rural Development in the dispensation and distribution of meaningful development to rural areas. Therefore the concern here is to review some related literatures on Local Government and Rural Development with specific reference to Sokoto South Local Government Area of Sokoto State. The first part would examine literatures on Local Government while the second part will dwell on rural development and problems associated with rural development.

Oviasuyi et al (2010:1) see the term Local Government administration in Nigeria as the closest tier of Government to the people of Nigeria, yet the resident population in it denied the benefit of its existence. The study in this section identified some of the major constraints of Local Government which has inhibited development to the grass-root level. The study endeavour to see Local Government as a strategy in which the dividends of governance can reach the masses particularly amongst the rural dwellers. They substantiated that Local Government since its reformation in 1976 have not been performing to expectation largely because of ineptitude of the staff, poor managerial system, lack of fund and uneven distribution of resources.

It is relevant to note that the motive behind the creation of Sokoto South Local Government is to provide rural area with public goods and services at the grassroots level. It provides certain solution which revolves around intensive commitment from the Federal Government whose exclusive power is superseding. Summarily, it was proved that Local Government in Nigeria has been effective in the dispensation of meaningful development to rural areas. Despite that there still areas where they are found wanting.

Emuinue (1995:12) studied the myth of Local Government in Nigeria with particular references to 1985-1993. It was averred that local government have not being given the need attention and autonomy regarding it control and finances. He posited that 1976 reform was introduced to transform the functional responsible of Local Government to provide the needed development for the rural populace. The study therefore extols that, for local government to be effective and efficient in the distributions of capital project to the rural dwellers it requires absolute autonomy both from the Federal and State Government. The interference of the two tiers of government should be that of curtail to the ward. In addition, he explicitly defined local Government in Nigeria with the ushering of the nascent democratic dispensation as the third tier of government. He posited that there are certain inhibition which debar local government from potential progression. This is consequent on the activities of the dominant party which revolve around the dictum of “he who pays the pier dictates the tones”. This assertion is a synopsis of the contemporary system of local government relationship with the state and federal government in Nigeria. These and many other issues serves as a major contention for local

government development in Nigeria to disburse funds for efficient development. The relevance of this literature would be useful to the study on Sokoto South Local Government of Sokoto State of Nigeria as it shows how local governments are financed in Nigeria.

Omopariola and Adewale (N.D) study substantiated on the effective revenue generation and management in local government particularly in Nigeria. The duo conceptualized local government as an essential instrument of the national and state government for the performance of certain basic services which best be administered locally in the intimate knowledge of the needs conditions and peculiarities of the area feel the existence and at the same to make people in the rural areas feel the benefit of government through efficient administrative control. In addition, the study provides some rationality on the distribution of national budget which affirms of been adequate for meaningful development needed in the rural areas. However, certain issues remain contentious which leads us to this question. Does local government areas in Nigeria work into the expectation of the grass root people? All answered in the foregoing section.

The work of Egromwan (1984) explain extensively on the concept of local government. He substantiated that local government is quite distinct from local government administration, he therefore sum up that local government as a parastatal deals with the government at the lower level in the provision of government benefits to the people at the grass root level. He opined that local governments in Nigeria are not adequately or sufficiently funded due to incessant politico-economic crisis in Nigeria.

Most local government areas are arbitrarily located with strong inclination to favorable government which thus changes it into inappropriate location without benefit at long run. The creation of this kind of local government has thus degenerated into communal conflict in the contemporary Nigeria era which thereby threatens peaceful co-existence of people and the development of capital projects to the people at the grass root level. However, it is against this backdrop that the study would adapt the available avenue in the examination of the local government strategy in the provision of government benefits to rural dwellers.

Local Government

According to Akpan (1967:50), local government is “ the breaking down of a country or localities for the purpose of administration in which the inhabitants of the different units or localities concerned play a direct and full part through their elected representative to exercise power or undertake functions under the general authority of the national government”. It exists for the people and its chief objective is the development of the community.

That is local government emanates from the decentralized process with the sole aim of ensuring development at the peripheral level. This is also in line with the perception of local government as obtained during the first and second republic as well as the aborted third republic which attempted to give local administration a sound and viable democracy in Nigeria. Ademolekun and Oduntokun (1977:285), have defined local government as the government at local level exercises through representative council

established by law to exercise specific power, within define area. This power should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial power to initiate and direct the provision of service and determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal government in their areas and ensure through devolution of function to these council and through the active participation of the people and their institution that local activities and response to local needs and conditions are minimized.

This simply means that the effectiveness and efficiency of the local government depends largely on the active role of the representatives backed up by law with in defined areas and explicitly enshrined in the constitution of a given country.

The international encyclopedia of social science (1968:451) defines local government loosely as public organization authority to decide and administer a limited range of public policies within a subdivision of a regional or national government. It is at the bottom of the pyramid of governmental institutions with the national government at the top and intermediate government (State, regions and provinces) at the middle range. Normally, local government has general jurisdiction and is not confined to the performance or one specification and service. In the past, local government has been classified in terms of their formal structure that is whether or not they have broad executive power.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is as old as human society. Rural relation with local government is of antiquities and hence no community is self-sufficient, but there are degrees of interaction among the people. Despite its age, it has undergone certain transformation in the country. Rural development is generally accepted to be a holistic concept which recognizes the complexity and their inter relatedness of various variable which influences the quality of the life of people in the rural areas.

A definition accepted by the working committee on the human environment in Kenya revealed rural development that is a series of quantitative and qualitative change occurring amongst a given rural population and whose converging effects indicate in time arises the standard of living and favorable changes in the way of life.

According to Shuaib (2007:5) rural development is most often used to encompass every effort towards the advancement of community and national interest. He further substantiate that rural development is an important trend in recent time, it mean different thing to different people depending on their politics and philosophical view of the world. Whatever, the explanation of rural development must have taken, it must be seen as a strategy for improving the economic, political, education and social status of the rural communities.

According to Bola and Belo (N.D), rural development “is a process of social action in which people of the rural community organizes their needs plan sources,

supplement organization with assistance in any form of government and non-government organization..

The Ashridge (2004) in a conference on social development viewed rural development as “a movement designed to promote better living for most community” this is aimed at advancing the well-being of the rural dwellers.

Onimide (1971:115) viewed “rural development and agricultural development as a synonymous terms, although the agriculture production based is of course a vital component of any rural development programme. In many Africa countries attention has been paid to agricultural development, but until recently, there have been few attempts to dashpot comprehensive rural development strategy.

Rural development can also be defined as improving the living standard of the masses of the low income population living in the rural areas and making the process of the development self-sustaining. The motion for rural development is theretofore very wide in deed. It include generation of new employment, more equitable access to land, equitable distribution of income, whole spread improvement in health, nutrition, housing, creation of incentives and opportunities for saving credit, creating wider opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential through education and sharing in the decision in which affect their lives. These and many other things are not been equitably distributed, therefore, the study would adapt the patterns in the interpretations of problems associated with Oyun Local Government in Kwara State..

The world Bank (1975) defined rural development as a potent designed strategically for general upliftment of economic, socio-political lives of specific group of people among who seek for livelihood, these groups of people are land lord tenants small scale former to a mention a few.

Owalla (1971) rural development is a strategic means of restructuring of the economy in order to satisfy the material needs and aspirations of the rural masses and to promote individual collective incentive to participate in the rural of development. They involves a host of multi-sectoral activities including the improvement of agriculture, the promotion of rural industries, the creation of register infrastructures and social over head, as well as the establishment of appropriate decent realized structure in order to allow mass participation. The India planning commission considered rural commission development as a method or rural extract which seeks to initiate the process of transforming the social and economic policies of the community. In the Nigeria context, the Federal government sees it as a programme which aids the community themselves, while government is expected to offer technical guidance and financial assistance. It is the belief of that programme that can bring about self-reliance in individual and quality expected in the rural villages or communities. Rural development encourages collectives action through people institutional development e.g cooperative society, development association and others just to mention a few.

However, local government is noted for the following functions;

1. Construction of roads and parts;

2. Provision of health services and sanitation;
3. Provision of social services like markets libraries and public transport;
4. Maintenance of forests and collection of rate and taxes;
5. Enacting regulation for planning etc.

1.8 Theoretical Frame Work of the Study

The study will employ “system analysis” as the theoretical framework. This is due to the imperative nature of the system analysis as it places much premium on the integral parts that constitute an organic whole. Nonetheless, one would like to know the central theme of the political system.

According to David Easton, political system is “that system of interaction in any society through which building or authoritative allocations are made” “authoritative allocations may be roughly translated as policy making”. There are in this political system inputs from the various environments and these are converted into output that is authoritative decision feedback mechanism puts back into the system as output, thus completing a complex cyclical operation. Many demand will be made or “articulated”, but some are might be lost in conversion process and do not reach the output stage if there are too many demand or particular types of demand, stress arises, and the channel are then over loaded. Again, there are various regulatory mechanism, to control demands and minimize overloading.

The structure mechanism (gate keepers) for example, pressures groups or political parties become the first category, secondly category is cultural mechanism with various

norms which consider the appropriateness of the demand. Thirdly, communication channels, which can be increased, fourthly, demand may be controlled in the conversion process itself by the legislators, executive and administrative bodies. Authoritative decision that displeases too many members of the system will lose support for the system or a group of officers tend to rule with iron hand or try to abuse power. This model which tries to provide frame work for organizing and conceptualizing information has the following characteristics among others;

A system has basic elements, parts and structure and each of these has an optimum role. It means they are equally important to the proper function of the system. All the components have goals and objectives, which tend towards the survival of the system, waste is always disallowed in every system, all the elements or integral parts are developed by differentiation. They all develop at their own pace using their available resources; on the whole, a system is an integral whole so that a deliberate injury to one part result in an equal injury to all parts indeed, the effective performance of the system depends immensely on the co-ordination of its part. Easton, Model serve as the “frame work” of this study while Easton studies the political system broadly in his time, the relevance of the model will serve as bedrock for this study.

In conclusion, what the theory sought to explain is that, for development to take place in any society, all the stakeholders, must be involved in the developmental process, like the government, the local community themselves and the availability of resources.

1.9 Assumption of the study

This research work is based on the following assumptions are formulated.

1. The role of Sokoto South local government is determined by the quantum of resources available and the judicious use of the same.
2. That Sokoto South local government has achieved a lot in the aspect of Socio-economic development in the various areas.
3. That Sokoto south local government has achieved less in rural development service
4. That rural development serves as avenues through which the needs of the rural people are satisfied.

1.10 Research Methodology

The method employed for this study comprise of the primary and secondary sources of data collection. In the primary source of data collection. The use of questionnaire will be adopted while in the secondary source of data, the use of magazine, newspaper, journal, articles and text books and other material found relevant to the study. The population of the study comprises of randomly selected fifty (50) people from the chosen towns in the local government areas, based on the researchers, discretion of using judgmental sampling in choosing the people that would be accessible as well as possessing characteristic. That is relevant to the research.

1.11 Definition of Concepts

Rural development

The concept of rural development does not have a single universal definition. There are those who give the concepts a management model connotation and yet others give a mobilization model connotation.

According to Krejamoh (1985:250) rural development is a "process of not only increasing the level of per-capital income in the rural areas, but also the standard of live of the rural population".

The definition of rural development seems to be too narrow. It is based on developmental economics that narrow the interpretation of rural development in terms of gross national domestic products. In the first place, per capital income is too narrow a yardstick for measuring rural development whether on the micro or macro level of analysis

According to Adegboye(1992:22) rural development is the development of the rural people in such continuous manner as to enable them most effectively utilize their intellectual technological and other resources for further development of both themselves and other resources".

In another contribution, professor Umalel (1975:20) in her book published for the World bank defined rural development as improving living standard of the mass of the low income population residing in rural area and making the process of their development self sustaining.

The definition as given by Umalele is very important because it reveals three important features on how rural progress is planned and implemented;

Firstly, improving the living standard of the subsistence population, involves mobilization and allocation of resources so as to strike a balance between welfare and the level of productivity.

Secondly, self-sustenance will involve the subsistence population in the development programme.

Thirdly, mass participation side by side with allocation of available resources to low income regions making sure at the time that production and social services reach the rural populace.

Socio-Economic Development

According to Hanson(1977:40) Socio-economic is the branch of applied economics, which deals with problems such as Population, Unemployment, Poverty, Housing And National Insurance collier encyclopedia(vol:8) defines social development as the process by which a non-industrial country is usually characterized by the dominance of agriculture and low per-capita incomes developments dynamics and efficient industrial and service sectors and integrates them into a balance national economic that provides, a much higher material standard of living for the people as a whole. But for this to be achieved, a construction of supporting network of roads, railway and communication equipments to bind the different regions and sectors into a nation whole would be required. This has brought in economic activities, in a sense, this

definition seems to be agreeing with the view that social and economic development have interchangeable role because solution found for one might equally enhance the other.

Local government

Local government according to Appadorai(1965:287) local government is government is the government in which popularly elected persons are charged with administering and executing duties in matters concerning the inhabitants of a particular district or place.

The United Nation Organization (UNO, 1961:11) define local government as a political sub division of a nation (or in a federal system or states) which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs including the power to impose tax or to exert labour.

1.12 Chapterization

This research work is divided into four chapters;

Chapter one is the general introduction whereby the background to the study, the statement of research problem, research questions, aims and objectives, significance of the study, assumption, literature review, theoretical frame work, assumption of the study, research methodology, scope and limitation of the study, definition of concept and Chapterization.

Chapter two deals with the Historical background of Nigeria, chapter three is largely concerned with data collection and analysis i.e information gathering from interview conducted.

Lastly chapter four deals with summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER TWO

This chapter essentially deals with the background economic and administrative set up of Sokoto south local government in relation to its role in socio economic development

2.1 Background of the Study

Sokoto south local government area is one of the 23 local government areas in Sokoto state. It has an area of about 1.8.2 40 square kilometers, it has a projected population of about 274, 289 and the 5th most populous local government in the Southern part of the state. It is bounded in the north by Wamakko and Dange Shuni local government in the southern banded Kabah local government of Sokoto East by South local government of Sokoto state and to the West by north local government

Lying in Sokoto state the area has an elevation of 200-300 miters above sea level the lower part in the North area is an extension of Sokoto state through white the highest south eastern part in the gradient of Kabah.

Sokoto south local government experiences the guinea savannah type of climate with an annual rainfall of 150-300m² due to these physical factors the area is speaking people, but other ethnic group are also found in certain settlement.

Before Sokoto south local government was created in 1976, south the headquarter of the local government had served as one or the traditional supreme courts in Sokoto land driving the introduction of colonial administration and chieftaincy in Sokoto land in 1823 Sokoto south was created as the native authority head quarter, in Sokoto land. In

1967 when the regional structures in Nigeria were abolished and the subsequent creation of the twelve states, the Sokoto native authority was then divided into two local governments under the new structure they were Sokoto South Local Government and North respectively. South Local Government got its full divisional status on the 3rd of February 1976 local government reforms just few months after the creation of Sokoto state

The local government has 11 council wards these in following, Gagi(B)Gagi(C)Rijiya(A)Rijiya(B)SarkinZamfara(A)SarkinZamfara(B)Tudun Wada (A)Tudun Wada (B)Sarkin Adar Kotar Atiku Sarkin Adar Kwanni these are the wards that constitute Sokoto South Local Government today.

2.2 History

Sokoto-South LGA is one of the 23 LGAs of Sokoto state. It shares boundaries with Wamako on the South, Kware LGA to the West, Sokoto North to the East, and Dange Shuni to the North. In 2006, the estimated total population of the LGA was 232,740. The LGA has 11 political wards, which are Gagi A, Gagi B, Gagi C, Rijiya A, Rijiya B, Sarkin Adar A, Sarkin Adar B, Sarkin Zamfara A, Sarkin Zamfara B, Tudun Wada A and Tudun wada B. Traditionally, the LGA has three district heads which include Sarkin Zamfara, Sarkin Yakin Gagi –District Head of Gagi, and Dallatun Sokoto –District Head of Tudun Wada. The major ethnic groups in Sokoto-South are Hausa, Fulani, Gobirawa and Zabarmawa. The main occupation is civil service, trading, farming, and cattle rearing.

2.3 Economy:

As noted in the geographical factors the areas is naturally bestowed agricultural potentialities. The major economic activities of the area are still vested in agriculture due to the physical factors. The area is a large producer of both cash and food crops such as rice groundnut, yams, cassava, potatoes, guinea-corn beniseed and millet

Apart from the farm product, livestock such as goats, sheep's, ducks, fowls are also kept in the area in addition to the above major occupations other lesser activities such as blacksmithing, fishing, hunting wearing are not left out.

Most of the people in the local government area are farmers because of the geographical disposition of the area. Exam those who are employed in the local government service engage in farming to supplement them in comes, the system of farming is based on the use of shifting cultivation model to the grow both food and cash crops ever before the creation of the local government people relied so much on subsistence agriculture. Although the subsistent living has not been put off wholly, it has reduced drastically over time.

Commercial activities are very vibrant in the local government, before the creation of Sokoto south local government; people immigrate from one side of the area to another side in order to trade. The medium of the exchange that was cowries later it was replaced with British currency trade exists among the different people, various contacts were made during the barber system and this facilitated business transactions' (4)

In terms of transportation of the goods, people used their heads, back donkey to carry their goods with the availability of vehicle, people travel long distance to the local government markets to trade, especially old market in the local government these manifest a positive change in their live.

2.4 Function of Sokoto South Local Government

One of the cardinal pillars of the democratic rights of the citizen of this country is the define guarantee in the constitution of a system of local government by democratic elected local government councils. This guarantee, is enshrined in ‘section” of the 1979 constitution, also provides the legal foundation for the numerous communities in the this country to exercise a measure of autonomous control over the running of their own affairs (5).

The section 7(5) of the 1999 constitution provide that, the function to be conferred by law upon local government council shall include those set out in the fourth schedule of this constitution

The main functions of the south local government council are as follow

1. The consideration and the making of recommendations of a state commission on economic planning or any similar body on 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 proposal made by the state. Commission or body.

2. Construction and maintenance of roads streets, streets light, drainage and other light ways packs gardens open spaces or such as public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by house of assembly, of the state
3. Licensing of bicycle, trunks, other than mechanically propelled trunks, canoe, wheel and cars
4. Establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets motor parks and public convinces
5. Naming of roads and streets numbering of houses
6. Control and regulation of
 - a) Movement and reaping of pets of all description
 - b) Shops and Kioks
 - c) Restaurants, bakeries and other (place for sale of trade)
 - d) Laundries provided
 - e) Licensing, regulation of the sale of liquor
7. Provision and maintenance of public convenience sawage and refusal disposal,
8. Registrations of all births, death, and marriages
9. Assessment of privately owned hales or tenements for the purpose of relating such sales as may be prescribed by the house of assembly of a state

2. The function of south local government as endure in the constitution shall include participation of such council in the government of the state as respect the following matters.

- a) The provision and maintenance of primary and adult 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) Mebera Quranic school by the local government
- e) Gidan Dahala upgraded dispensary Maberu by the local government.
- f) Front view of the renovation headquarter of the local government.
- g) Pay loader purchased by the local government.
- h) Grade machine purchased by the local government.
- i) Bulldozer purchased by the local government.
- j) Generator purchased by the local government.
- k) Heavy duty machine purchased by the local government.
- l) Tippers purchased by the local government.
- m) Such function as may be conferred on the local government council by the house of assembly of the state.

It could be seen from the foregoing that broad two groups of function are set out for Sokoto south local government council to perform according to the 1999 constitution. in the paragraph (1) of the fourth schedule list function over which the local government

council could exercise exclusive, responsibility , the function in paragraph (2) thereof are to be performed concurrently with the state government to pretext avoidable neglect, the state government in its local government law should clearly defined, delineate and delimit in specific terms, the function to be performed by each tier of government is so far the executive of concurrent function is concerned. the above are the function Sokoto south local government as enshrined in the 1999 constitution apart from the above Sokoto south local government have other function which it from to it people as we shall see at the course of our research finding.

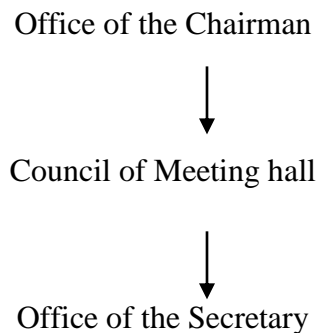
2.5 The Evolution And Administration Set Up

South became, district in the Sokoto state in line with the native authority, which was made as an administrative unit during the “indirect rule system around 1923” (7). From the time to 1968 “the military takeover south and its units operated on the directive of native authority the its headquarter s at south , the reforms which accompanied the 1968 military takeover affected a change in the native authority which executed in local government , authority with it duties duly assigned (8) . The local governed creation , like state creation is seen as one of the veritable means to bring development closer to the grassroots.

At it has being the case , it is hardly conceivable that people should execute a state or local government thrust on their laps without making any effort at getting such created. the creation of south local government is the out come of an intense struggle both at the level of council , state and even federal, by indigenes of the are desirous of not

only ensuring the much need development , but also to create an avenue for asserting their relevance In the political scheme of things so Sokoto south local government are was created in 1976 by general Murtala /Obasanjo regime .

The development of any society through this government activities depends a lot on the quality of leadership of the society. The structure of the central administration of south local government sheds lights other activities of the various department in the local government below in the diagram



Admin dept , finance dept, social development dep. natural resource dept, health dept, work dept, source : south local government office 2015 from the above, south local government has the following department administrative /management department under which there is community development unit, agriculture /natural resource department and works department , fiancé department , health department.

As can be seen south local government right from 1999 to 2015 , is structurally articulated thereby enabling the chairman on top to perform the executive power as vested on him in the 1999 constitution .

The general concern of the council from 1999 to date has been the provision of portable water through the construction of boreholes , open concrete well etc. in strategic location the council. the proviso of rural feeders roads, building more class rooms to raise literacy level I the council as well the construction and equipping of clinic / dispensaries to ensure delivery of primary health care service to the people of the area.

This passionate concern is informed by the fact that south local government, being a predominantly rural local government has had to contend with a number of problems peculiar to the rural landscape of Nigeria. Prominent among these are the problem of lack of water, roads, electricity, health care delivery and functional education . it is an attempt to redress these imbalance that the agitation of the local government was make in the first instance. Thus, when the people dream was realized, it became the responsibility of successive leaders of the local government to take measures to change the ugly situation.

Administration /Management Department

In south local government, the management department consists principally of information unit and community development unit, each according to it heads.

The Director of personnel management (DPM) heads, this Department he signs cheques, contractors. Agreements purchase order forms e.t.c. His recommendation or

initiatives are subject to the approval of his super iordinates according to the hierarchy of authority he also assists the secretary to local government in the formulation and execution of policies and programmes. The department selects and appoints staffs, trains them to be disciplined, and to perform other duties in conjunction with community development effort as well as information dissemination.

Agricultur/Natural Resource Department

South local government is a predominantly agricultural area this department also has its head the head of this department perform the function of allocating fertilizers billed for the local government. He controls the seeding and other variety of products at the disposal of the local government in similar view this department caters for the inputs required by the local government rice farm whose products is sold to the needy at affordable prices the department sometime organizes in open lecture and educates farmers on how to use the land as well as the application of fertilizers. This department makes sure that water is treated before consumption while it guides hunters and fishermen in tapping natural resources.

Works Department

This department has also been playing a key role in south local government. The head of this department work as a team with his subordinate to provides some services such as market construction, motor parts, local government clinic and dispensaries in source village. Other services include then provision of water bridges construction as well as the maintenance of local government vehicles. The department also has a section

that is responsibility for local and survey it administration technical advice to contractors and builders in the local government.

Health Department

The health department embodies social welfare unit just as we have in the state and health service unit under the supervision of the director of health.

The social welfare unit deals with family matters and caters for the education pursuit of the disabled. The disabled are given priority attention. Under health service unit, the department make request for the supply of drugs which the always treat with almost important since health is wealth”.

South local government has put in place a number of key policies. These include paying adequate attention to both curative and preventive components of health care, the implementation of expanded programme on immunization and oral dehydration therapy (EPI/ORT)

Specifically this department provides services through the erecting maternity, clinic, dispensaries, maintenance of sanitation days and rending essential the local government

CHAPTER THREE

This chapter is meant to analyze the data collected from the responses to the questionnaire and interview questions administered on the local populace and some local government officials respectively.

3.1 Data analysis:

Table 1: occupation distribution of the respondents in Sokoto South district

Variables	No. of Frequency	% score
Farmers	20	50
Civil servant	4	10
Traders	8	20
Fishermen	8	20
Total	40	100

Table 1: Show the occupational distribution of the respondents in the study 50% of the respondents were made up of farmers, 20% are traders, while 20% of the respondents are fishermen and 10% are civil servants.

Table 2: An assessment of local government performance in rural development:

Variables	No. of Frequency	% score
Excellent	3	7.5
Good	9	22.5
Fair	21	52.5
Poor	7	17.5
Total	40	100

The above table show that pattern of responses to question on an assess cut of local government performance in the area of rural development. With most of the responses in the fair category (52.5%) it indicates that, the effort of local government towards improving the loss of the rural dwellers is being appreciated by the anticipated beneficiaries in rural development. And this also implies that there has been the development of the rural areas by the local government and there fore the basic rural infrastructural facilities have been provided by the local government to the rural dwellers.

Table 3: An assessment of community development project in the Local government

Variables	No. of frequency	% score
Yes	37	92.5
No	3	7.5
Total	40	100

The above table indicates the response of the responded to the question of self-help projects in community development projects. And on whether they receive assistance or not, from the local government towards executing the projects. An overwhelming majority indicate that they received assistance from the local government in executing community development projects. This indicates that the local government played a vital role in the execution of self-projects:

Table 4: Type of health service being provided by the local government.

Variables	No. of frequency	% score
Dispensary	10	25
First aid	5	12.5
Rural health	5	12.5
Center	10	25
Clinic	6	15
None	4	10
Total	40	100

The above table shows the responses receive on the question of health service being provided to the respondent by the local government 40% of the respondents show that they are being provided with a dispensary, 17.5% are being provided with a clinic and 15% are not being provided with any health service. There fore about 5% of the respondents are being served or provided with health services by the local government.

This implies that there has been a significant development in the health sector as only 15% of the respondents indicated that they don't enjoy any health services of the local government.

Table 5 : Sources of water supply

Variables	No. of frequency	% score
River	10	25
Well /stream	9	22.5
Borehole	3	7.5
Tap	2	5
Well & borehole	8	20
All of the above	8	20
Total	40	100

The above table shows that sources of water supply of the respondents were 26.5% of the respondents have river as their sources of water supply. 23.2% of the respondents get their water supply from well or stream. 7.5% from bore hole, while 5% of the respondent get their water supply from the tap 20% get their from well or bore holes and 20% from all the sources listed above, however, was found that no respondent that relies solely on the bore hole or tap as its resources of water supply most respondent have well river stream as their source of water supply.

Table 6: improvement on the source of water supply

Variables	No. of frequency	% score
Yes	28	70
No	12	30
Total	40	100

The Above table is a summary of the respondents, question of whether there has been any improvement in their source of water supply. 70% of the respondent was of the opinion that there has been an improvement in their source of water supply 30% expressed that there has not been any improvement in these sources. This implies that, local government impact on the improvement of rural water supply has been tremendous.

Table 7: Number of Development project that have been out in the Area.

Variables	No. of frequency	% score
Less than 2 project	7	17.5
2-4 project	23	57.5
More than 4 project	8	20
None	2	5
Total	40	100

The above table shows a summary of the responses to the question on projects that have so far been executed in their area of the local government.

Most of the respondent 57.5% views on the number of project that have been executed in there are large between 2-4 project, 20% stated that more than four project have so far been executed in their areas and 17.5% have less 2 project been executed in their areas and 5% had no projects that has carried out in their areas. Therefore Sokoto south local government area performance to ward rural development has been quite tremendous particularly in the area of health and water supply.

In the cause of my interview with local government officials I found out that the local government has on health service made a great effort towards providing health facilities and services to the people in the area particularly, the south district. This is in relation to infrastructure facilities which are either being provided. It was found that in Sokoto south district alone today there are about thirty health centers located in different places apart from the specialist hospitals.

On education though its management is vested on the local government, any burden of failure or success is to be carried by the local government. For example, the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme, many primary schools particular in the rural areas became established and years after the scheme most schools that became established as a result of it are not functioning. The local government council has how taken over most of the school some of these school have even been converted to model primary school example of those schools converted are motel primary schools Gagi town etc

The adult education section is also being reverted. Adult education classes are being run in almost all the village in Sokoto south.

Water supply is also another section in which the local government is trying to make its impacts felt by the populace. The local government has sum over 3 boreholes and well in the district.

In the area of road construction and repairs nor much has been done by the local government council.

Other development projects that have been executed by the local government includes the building of motor parks, Quranic school, clinic, drainage, at Gagi district.

On a discussion the problems confronting the local government and which have directly or in directly impaired on inhibited its efforts towards grassroots development. The following wore highlighted by the local government officials.

One is inadequacy of funds; the effects of this problem were said to diverse however only few of its. Effects were discussed. And these are its effects of the health services and rural electrification programme. As a result of inadequacy of funds through many health centers have been established they are only a kind of window dressing as most of not all these center lack drugs and the necessary medical equipment for their running. Also a result of lack of adequate funds, no any rural electrification programme have been executed by the local government in Gagi district. The inadequacy of funds was said to arise from the fact that the local revenue sources that have been allocated to the local government are incapable of generating enough revenue for carrying out all the

function for which the local government were established and neither are the grants of the federal and state government.

The other problem that confronts the local government is lack of autonomy. Through the 1976 reforms anticipated the development of power and authority to the local council, this is still a dream. This has seriously impaired the local government performance in the areas of rural development; this is because a ceiling amount for contract that can be awarded by the local government is been set by the state government.

Another problem that was highlighted is the lack of adequate and properly trained manpower. This problem is more serious in the health sector of the local government, It takes enough personal to man its various health center. Base on the secondary data, the following were also same of the problems that local governments have to contend with and these have had a negative consequences. state government on the other hand don't honor their obligation of paying of their internally generated revenue to local government areas within the states on time and this delay in meeting this obligation had affected the smooth implantation of local government programmes.

The other problems is less of revenue through arbitrary statutory allocation by the state government as source of contribution to the primary school management board (P.S.M.B.).this compounded further by the categorization of expenditure by local government as contained in paragraph 9,2 and 1 of the implementation guidelines in the applications of the civil service reform in the local government. By this act lots of founds would be committed to education by local government since no categorical statement has

been made by the federal government on the amount that should be contributed by each local government to primary education. Also this categorization erodes local government autonomy. Another issue is the encroachment on local government function by the state government areas most affected are constructing and maintenance of markets and motor parks.

Corruption is another problem confronting local government according to some people. The local government is a gold mine where easy money could be made by those charged with collecting revenues. This melody has become so entrenched that an urgent and permanent solution of local government want become effective source for the generation and management of resources to improve the life of rural populace.

In view of Malami Umar Sarkin Yakin Gagi and Baraya Zaki thought it was held that the institution of local government functions primary to ensure the development of the rural areas but this institution is fraught with lots of problems. Which have continued to undermine its performance. And unless these problems are done away with local government performance especially in the area of rural development can never be meaningful. these problems include inadequacy of funds and lack of trained and skilled man power.

Going by the data collected, it can be deduces that this local government has made fair efforts towards the development of its rural areas. however, there are issues, which if care is not taken will not only hamper the local government further efforts in the development of its rural areas but also lead to a deterioration of its performance in this

direction a case in points is lack of appropriate medical personnel has rendered most of the health centers useless. This is compounded by lack of essential drugs. Which was blamed on the inadequacy of funds to procure the drugs. Also some of the borehole that has been sunk has broken down as a result of lack of engineers that would carry out maintenance work on them. All these are evident in the date collection.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 SUMMARY

This study focused on the role of local government in the development of rural areas.

Prior to the 1976 reforms many reforms had been effected in the local government system, both during the colonial periods and post independence, period All intended at improving the local government system. However, all these reforms programs in the administration of local government did not bring any meaningful change in the local system, as local government nationwide continued to be just an extension of the state administration. The failure of these reforms and programs promoted the federal government to initiate system, which made them to assume a uniform position all over the country and became a Third -tier of government their areas in particular the spread of amenities to all section of the Community.

In this study, it was demonstrated that Basic rural infrastructural facilities have to some extent been provided in Gagi district areas and it is the provision of these basic rural infrastructural facilities that determines whether a particular local government area has been developed over the years or not.

Based on this research study, it was found that though there has been considerable development in Gagi over the years. This may generate into the underdevelopment of the area. If the problem confronting the local government which have cripple its performance

and efficiency are not tackled or done away with. These problems included inadequacy of funds, lack of local autonomy, and lack of skilled professional man power and corruption e.t.c.

4.2 Conclusion

In the study, it was found that local government performance particularly in the area of development is appreciable considering the problems that local government have to contend with.

However, in view of what has been written and investigated in the study, this research will be concluded therefore that they could be made to improve on their performance and even be functionally virile if these problems that besiege local government are tackled or done away with implicitly, there would be rapid socio-economic changes at the grass roots if these problems are tackled once and for all.

4.3 Recommendation

The performance of local government in general and in the area of rural development in particular is being fraught with lots of problems ranging from the issue of autonomy to staff matters and finance.

The following are proposed as recommended ways which local government could be made to be functional and efficient;

1. That there should be an incentive that would motivate qualified man power into the employment of local government system should be made to prevail in the local government administration system. This incentive should include among

others good conditions of services, attractive salary scale, adequate housing and good medical facilities. There should also be massive training. And re- training of all local government staff to enable them acquire the necessary expertise needed for efficient discharge of their duties. In essence local government should be

2. Made to recruit the right type of human resources to run the system and after recruiting constant training Coupled with screening and widening away of misfits. The government in power should not only be fully committed to the reform programmes but also see that the reform proposals are promptly implemented.
3. There is still the need to increase the federal great to local government and also to increase their local sources of revenue generation.

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USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Science

Department of Political Science

Dear Respondent,

I am Murtala Abubakar from Usmany Danfodiyo, Sokoto, Department of Political Science, faculty of Social Science. I am undertaking a research on the topic “The role of Local government in rural development in Nigeria with specific reference to Sokoto South Local Government. Therefore your response towards this questionnaire will be highly appreciated.

Thanks

1. What is the main occupation in Sokoto South Local Government?
(a) Farmers () (b) Civil Servant () (c) Traders () (d) Fisherman
2. What is the performance of Sokoto South Local Government towards Rural Development (a) excellent (b) good (c) fair (d) poor
3. Does the local government partake in any community development project (a) Yes (b) No
4. What kind of health service provider is in your local government?
(a) Dispensary (b) First Aid () (c) Rural health () (d) Center () (e) Clinic () (f) None ()
5. What is the source of water supply in Sokoto South local government

(a) River () (b) Well/ stream () (c) Borehole () (d) Tap ()

(e) Well and borehole (f) All of the above

6. Has the source of water source water supply in the local government improved

(a) Yes () (b) No ()

7. How many devilmment project has initiated and completed in the local government.

(a) Less than 2 project () (b) 2-4 project () (c) More than 4 project () (d)

None ()