

Local Government Administration and Community Development: A Survey of Ayedaade Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria

**Olumide O. Omodunbi¹, Oluwatobi O. Omotoye²
and Moradeyo Oluwatobi Adeoye³**

^{1,2}Department of Political Science, Osun State University,
Osogbo, Nigeria

¹Email: *olumideomodunbi@gmail.com*

²Email: *adeoyemoradayo1596@gmail.com*

³Department of Employment Relations and
Human Resource Management
University of Lagos, Akoka
Email: *omotoyetobio95@gmail.com*

Abstract

Life in Nigeria today is stressful and confusing because of the way the government works. The establishment of local government is to bring development to the grassroots, but in Nigeria, this has not been the case. This study examines the roles of local government administration in community development in Ayedaade Local Government Area (LGA), Osun State, Nigeria. Using descriptive survey design and Taro Yamane Formula on sample size, data was collected for the study. Out of the 399 copies of questionnaire administered to respondents residing in Ayedaade LGA of Osun State, Nigeria, 387 were retrieved in usable form. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS package version 22. The study found that the local government plays a significant role in community development in Ayedaade. However, the lack of motivation among the staff of the local government is one of the challenges faced by Ayedaade in community development. It surmised that one of the possible ways to strengthen local government administration in Ayedaade to ensure community development is the regular payment of salaries and incentives for local government workers, which will enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out community development. The conclusion reached is that local government is the hub for social, political and economic mobilisation and galvanisation of the citizens for effective participation in the community and national development. The study recommends the use of technology to foster the development of the community. Also, the bottom-up approach (participatory approach) in

planning, implementing, monitoring, controlling and evaluating the development schemes and programmes is highly advocated rather than the use of the top-down approach.

Keywords: Local government administration, Community development, Ayedaade, Participatory approach, National development.

Introduction

The local government is the government closest to the masses. It is one of the paramount agencies for generating motivation and encouraging mobilisation for self-help as well as including the much-needed wider participation of the local population in the decision-making process at the local level (Ukah, 2012). According to Edward (in Eluwa, 2012), the so called third world is a rural world where any meaningful discussion of community development means not only “talking of overall national development,” but because it is in a community that the problems of inequitable distribution of resources or a marked lack of purchasing power and grinding poverty in which the wretched members of the society stagnate. The reason for the local government in Nigeria is partly to stop the deteriorating living conditions in the various communities of the country. An effective local government will be better disposed than the state or federal government, not only to stem the grim reality of the rising tide of grassroots poverty but also be better positioned to evoke communal efforts and networking to manage and mobilise the support of local citizenry in participating in all the programmes that may affect them (Eluwa, 2012).

As an agent of improvement, the essential priorities of any local government ought to consist of the reduction of poverty in the community, propelling growth in the local communities, provision of social facilities, enhancing the participation of the local citizens in political activities, enhancing their human abilities, boosting nationalism, inspiring creativity and innovation as well as educating the local community (Bello-Imam, 2007). According to Agbakoba (2014), local government is a political and administrative unit that is empowered by using the law to administer a specific locality. Ezeani (2006) posits that a local government is commonly seen as a veritable agent of development and grass-roots participation in the democratic system. Local government is composed of local people whom members of the society can identify and relate with culturally. The existence of the three tiers of government in Nigeria

is, therefore, expected to respond to these functions or responsibilities. While the three tiers have varied geopolitical boundaries of authority, they all have their functions towards the development of the country in general and within their areas of influence in general.

Community development is based on faith in the ability of people to learn to help them attain an improved standard of living. Building better communities is a gradual process that involves taking one step at a time; rural development has thus remained one of the priority items of the programmers of administration. The local government is the government nearest to the populace and one of the best agencies for generating motivations and encouraging mobilisation for self-help as well as the much needed wider participation of the local government population in the decision-making process at the local level. Local government has to ensure service delivery at the grassroots, support infrastructure such as low-cost homes as well as building and maintaining public parks, increase training opportunities for the community dweller, and also attune government policies in favor of the community. However, additional response is needed to develop the local communities and this can be achieved when other tiers of government agencies develop a greater role in helping communities build their capacity for development (Cavaye, 2003). In rural as well as national development, the understanding of the local power structure is capable of enhancing or impeding the implementation of development projects. Besides, local government leadership is always required for the genuine involvement of the people at the grass-roots in any development project or activities of the government. Local government is supposed to provide services and internal support for the community and the technical assistance provided can aid community development. When the local government provides community support it contributes greatly to economic development, infrastructure, and quality of life of the common man. Although local government services are sometimes perceived to be confined to infrastructure provision and enforcement of regulation, local authorities can embrace and enhance multi-disciplinary roles in the local community, and enterprise development. This is then a progressive process that has no end.

Green and Haines (2012) assert that community development is a planned effort to build assets that increase the capacity of residents to improve their quality of life. They asserted further that these assets may include several forms of community capital such as physical, human, social, financial, environmental, political, and cultural. In their study, they identified community development that is controlled by the local government provides a better match between the assets and the needs of the communities, such as housing, financial capital, job skills, and productivity. Community development fundamentally involves a series of actions and decisions that improve the situation of a community, not just economically, but as a strong functioning community. Cavaye (2003) argues that through action, participation, and contact, a community becomes more vital and this relies on strong networks, organizational ability, skills, leadership, and motivation of the local government. It shows that local government plays a significant role in bringing the best out of the community. It also serves to achieve productivity and sustainability. However, life in Nigeria today is stressful and confusing because of the way the local government works. The establishment of local government is to bring development to the community, but in Nigeria, this has not been the case. Until this moment, local governments have remained crippled and underdeveloped because there is a lack of authority and autonomy in taking decisions and generating revenue for the betterment of their environment. It is the above-stated problems that instigated the choice of the study in evaluating the role of Local government in Community development using Ayedaade Local Government in Osun State as a case study. Arising from the foregoing, this article will seek to provide answers to the following research questions;

1. What is the role of local government administration in the community development of Ayedaade local government?
2. What are some of the challenges faced by Ayedaade local government in the process of effective service delivery?
3. What are the possible ways to strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure greater productivity and increased efficiency?

Literature Review

Local Government Administration

The term local government has been defined variously by different scholars. In the view of Wraith (1964), local government refers to locally elected councils whose main purposes are to provide or administer services with as great degree of independence as modern circumstances allow. For Golding (1959), the local government is the management of the local affairs by the people of their locality. Some other scholars have attempted to expand on and perhaps give greater expression to the definitions given above. For Sorka (1978), local government connotes the decentralization or dispersion of authoritative decision making whereby the authority to make decisions is displaced downwards from remote points near the top administration or outward from geographical locations, thus bringing authority closer to the people affected by it. In the same vein, Oyediran (1979) sees local government as the diffusion of the political process on an area basis, i.e. local self-administration and inclusion of noble ideals of impartiality, protection of minority rights and integrity, all of which are considered essential to the evolution of a liberal democratic society. Whatever else that may be said, it is clear from the above definitions that a local government in any system is assumed to possess the following characteristics: (1) a given territory and population; (2) an institutional structure for legislative purpose; (3) a separate legal entity, a range of power and functions authorised by delegation from the appropriate central or intermediate legislation; and (4) within the Anglo-America tradition, autonomy is limited to common law such as the test of reasonableness (Williams, 1978).

According to Oni (1993), local government is that “level of government exercised through representative councils, established by law to exercise geographical area with common social and political ties”. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff, and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implement projects to complement the activities of the state and federal governments in their areas.

Community Development

Todaro (1981) asserts that development is a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and re-orientation of the entire economic and social system. In addition to improvement in income and output, it typically involves radical changes in institutional, social, and administrative structures as well as in a particular attitude and many cases even customs and beliefs. For developments, over the years, it has been conceived as a process of economic and social changes to achieve a better life. Only a few analysts have stopped to ask themselves if these changes could be for the worse for some sectors of society and better for others. It is very useful to retain the positive value placed on the term development and see development as first of all the escape of man out of the conditions of exploitation, poverty, and oppression (Cockroft, 1970) and that development involves changes in the basic institution and structures of society. Walter Rodney sees development in human society as many-sided processes. To him at the level of the individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility, and material wellbeing. He further argued that some of these indicators are completely moral categories and are very difficult to evaluate. For him, at the level of social groups, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships (Rodney, 1972).

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 of 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) claims that “community development is one of the main boards upon which national developmental policies and their implementation are hinged”. The concept of community development is not completely new. What probably may appear new is the mode of application in modern times and its ancestry as a union of community, organization, and economic development (Sanders in Hanachor, 2012).

Ogo (2012) opined that community development is a move by the community members to provide their basic needs through their efforts and sometimes with external assistance where necessary and possible. He believes that whether this external assistance comes or not, it is believed by professionals in community development that adequate injection of external assistance by local governments in self-help efforts by the communities reinforces local development actions. Hence, local governments should seize the opportunity to offer such external assistance or act as facilitators for community development. Mexiro (in Hanachor, 2012) also argued that community development is “a planned and organized effort to assist individuals to acquire the attitudes, skills, and concepts, required for their democratic participation in the effective solution of a wide range of community problems in order of priority”. Community development when viewed in the light of the educational process manifests in behavioral change and acquisition of new skills and confidence as a result of repetition or practice and co-operation. It is the responsibility of the local governments to act as facilitators in educating the local citizens as well as spearheading the planned efforts for empowering these individuals at the grassroots.

The development of a community’s economy is about recognizing and coupling local community resources and prospects and inspiring sustainable economic and employment action (Kenyon, 1994). Sanders (1958) posited that community development is a process that advances from stage to stage; a technique of working towards an objective; a program of processes and as a drive sweeping people up in sentiment and conviction. It is a process through which increasingly more members of a given area or environment makes and implements socially responsible decisions, the probable consequence of which is an improvement in the quality of life of some people without a decrease in those of

others (Oberle, Darby, and Stowers, 1975). Furthermore, it can be described as a situation in which some groups, usually locally based such as neighborhood or local community attempt to improve its social and economic situation through its efforts, using the professional assistance and perhaps also, financial assistance from the outside and involving all sectors of the community or group to a maximum (Voth, 1975). Community development can also be seen as the process of helping community people to analyze their problems, exercise a large measure of community autonomy as possible and feasible, and promote greater identification of the individual citizen and organization with the community as a whole (Warren, 1978). There is an undeniable need for the involvement of the local governments in the activities of the communities to develop the grassroots.

Theoretical Review

A theory is a set of accepted beliefs or organized principles that explain and guide analysis and one of the ways that theory is defined is that it is different from practice when certain principles are tested. This research adopted the democratic-participatory theory and efficiency service delivery theory. The theory of democratic-participatory was developed by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and later promoted by J.S. Mill and G. D. H. Cole, who argued that political participation is indispensable for the realisation of a just society. The democratic-participatory theory has been one of the earliest models in Social Sciences, particularly in political discussions since about 2000BC. Mills (1964) works on utilitarianism, liberty, and representative government that serve as an impetus for a renewed commitment to this school of thought, re-emphasizing that local government is the starting point of democratic participation regardless of other intrinsic and extrinsic functions it performs. The tenets of the school are that local governments are created to encourage participatory democracy and serve as a training ground for the recruitment of leaders, provide channels of self-government and political education at grass root levels. This was demonstrated in the works of Chukwuemeka (2014); Ani (2013); Adeyemo, (2011) that the idea of local government is intricately connected to a philosophical commitment to democratic participation in the politics and self-governing at the grassroots level. For instance,

David Butler in his study of British politics in 1964 revealed that 53% of Labour members of parliament and 45% of defeated Labour Party parliamentarian's candidates were once local government politicians and political officeholders. Mackenzie (1954) also illustrated this with data showing that more than half of the Deputies and about the same proportion of Senators in Italy had political education in the local government. In Nigeria, President Shehu Shagari, Umaro Dikko, Ali Montuno, among others, started their political careers at the local government level (Tony, 2011; Ajayi 2000; Adamolekun, Olowu & Laleye, 1988). The empirical relevance of this model was demonstrated in the study by Aragone and Sanchez-Pages (2008) in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil in his examination of how the system of participatory budgeting was implemented.

However, Fischer (1993) argues that representative democracy is not generally considered participatory since citizens may lack the time, knowledge, or will to contribute to policymaking. Besides, despite the constitutional provision for local government in Nigeria and the 1996 local government Reform, it is, however, sad that how the local government is run clearly and unambiguously deviates from the stated objectives. The overbearing posture of the State Governors in Nigeria especially since 2003 has strangled local government from serving truly as the third tiers of government. In most States, caretaker systems were adopted to ensure that the Governors have total control over the operation of local government. In situations where elections were claimed to have been conducted, the process deviated from any civilized democratic norms as candidates were imposed by the governors and the elections conducted by the State Electoral Commission only returned candidates contesting the elections on the same political platforms as the governors. In effect, the local government is expected to serve as a vehicle for political socialization, recruitment, and participation these have not been fully realized. Even if the above-stated goals are not achieved as expected in some system like Nigeria due to institutional and attitudinal factors, it does not diminish the relevance of the theory as noted by Aragone and Sanchez-Pages (2008) that a participatory system at the local level is indeed possible and can successfully, but not without problems as it helps to govern large communities.

The efficiency service delivery theory premises the existence of local government as an efficient agent of the government for providing services that are local in character. Mackenzie (1954) cited in Adeyemo (2010) and Chukwuemeka, (2014) noted that one of the notable proponents of the existence of LG is that local government exists to provide services and it must be judged by its success in providing services up to a standard measured by the national inspectorate. This same line of thought was found in the works of Sharpe (1970) that given that there is no local government; a functionally similar body must be in existence to provide services that are local in nature. This explains why Eboh&Diejomaoh (2010) adds that local governments worldwide are considered as strategic institutions for the provision, among others, basic socio-economic needs. This could be understood from the perspective that the size and spread of a nation particularly those that are large and heterogeneous in a composition may not be able to rely on the central and regional government to effectively meet up with needs that are local in nature. In effect, local governments may effectively and efficiently respond to local needs. This theory, therefore, notes that local government may not justify its existence if it fails to provide needed service within its scope of competence effectively.

The theory has been criticized by Sharpe (1970) in the sense that the value of local government as a bulwark of liberty, or at least as a handmaiden of democracy, has been recognized, its role as an agency for providing services has evoked no comparable enthusiasm. This is particularly relevant to the Nigerian situation in which the local government has failed to justify its existence. The nexus between the theories in respect of challenges of local government administration in Nigeria and lessons that could be learned from the comparative study is anchored on assessing the extent to which it has been able to serve as an agent of democratic participation and how efficient it has been able to cope with developmental challenges with specific reference to socio-economic needs that are local in nature.

Methodology

The study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data collection. Secondary data were sourced from journals, textbooks, periodicals, newspapers, and other published and unpublished

materials. The primary data were sourced through the administration of a structured questionnaire which was administered on the inhabitants of Ayedaade local government area of Osun State, and those who have adequate knowledge on the role of local government in Community development in Ayedaade Local Government. The study adopted a descriptive survey design that involves the systematic collection, presentation, and analysis of data on the role of Local government in Community development in Ayedaade Local Government in Osun State. It employed a quantitative research method which implies the collection of data through the administration of the questionnaire. The study was conducted in Ayedaade Local Government. The study population includes the entire population mass of Ayedaade Local Government which stands at one hundred and fifty thousand, three hundred and ninety-two 150, 392 people (NPC, 2007). The Sample size for the study was calculated by using Taro Yamane (Yamane, 1973) formula on sample size. Using simple random sampling, 399 respondents were randomly administered the questionnaire. The data collected were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics employed the use of simple frequencies, tables, score counts, and percentages while the inferential statistics made use of the chi-square goodness of fitness test with the aid of Statistics Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) in measuring the level of relationship between these variables.

Data Presentation

This section deals with the presentation, analysis, and discussion of data collected from the respondents through the administration of questionnaires to assess the Roles of Local Government on Community Development in Ayedaade Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria.

Table 1: distribution of Socio-demographic Data of Questionnaire of Respondents

The distributions of the respondents based on six (6) demographic variables and personal data item were analyzed and presented as follows,

S/N	Variables	Options	Freq.	%
1.	Gender	Male	213	55.0
		Female	174	45.0
		Total	387	100
2.	Age	under 18 years	16	4.1
		18-25 years	107	27.6
		26-30 years	88	22.7
		31-35 years	66	17.1
		36-40 years	50	12.9
		41-45 years	14	3.6
		46-50 years	18	4.7
		above 50 years	28	7.2
		Total	387	100
3.	Marital Status	Single	152	39.3
		Married	197	50.9
		Divorced	16	4.1
		Separated	22	5.7
		Total	387	100
4.	Religion	Christian	233	60.2
		Muslim	152	39.3
		Other	2	0.5
		Total	387	100
5.	Educational Status	SSCE	89	23.0
		NCE/OND	140	36.2
		HND/B.Sc./M.Sc	146	37.7
		No formal Education	12	3.1
		Total	387	100
6.	Occupation	Artisan	3	0.8
		Barber	3	0.8
		Caterer	6	1.6
		Civil Servant	93	24.0
		Clergy	6	1.6
		Distributor	9	2.3
		Entrepreneur	15	3.9
		Farmer	4	1.0
		Unemployed	3	0.8
		Photographer	3	0.8
		Public Servant	12	3.1
		Security	3	0.8
		Self-Employed	27	7.0
		Student	107	27.6
		Tailor	3	0.8
		Trader	90	23.3
		Total	387	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 1 above indicates the socio-demographic information of the respondents.

Item 1 on the table involves the sex of the respondents. It reveals that 213 (55%) of the respondents are males while about 174 (45%) of the respondents are females. The interpretation of this is that the response decided from the study is fairly balanced.

Item 2 two gives vivid details on the respondents' age distribution; 16 (4.1%) of the respondents are not yet 18 years, 107 (27.6%) of the respondents are between the ages of 18-25, 88 (22.7%) are between the ages of 26-30, 66 (17.1%) are between the ages of 31-35, 50 (12.9%) are between the ages of 36-40, 14 (3.6%) are between the ages of 41-45, 18 (4.7%) are between the ages of 46-50, while 28 (7.2%) of the respondents were 50 years and above. This implies that the majority of the respondents were between the ages of 18-25 years.

Item 3 on the table shows the marital status of the respondents. It reveals 152 (39.3%) of the respondents are single, 197 (50.9%) of the respondents are married, 16 (4.1%) of the respondents are divorced, and 22 (5.7%) of the respondents are separated. The interpretation of this is that responses to the study are not aged biased and the distribution was balanced as it cut across all age range

Item 4 on the table shows the religion of the respondents. The result reveals that about 233 (60.2%) of the respondents are Christians, 152 (39.3%) of the respondents are Muslims, and 2 (0.5%) stated that they are neither Christians nor Muslims. This implies that Muslim respondents had the highest response.

Item 5 on the table shows the educational status of the respondents. The result shows that 89 (23%) of the respondents have SSCE, 140 (36.2%) of the respondents have NCE/OND, 146 (37.7%) of the respondents have HND/B.Sc./M.Sc., and 12 (3.1%) of the respondents have no formal education. This implies that the respondents are educated to understand the question raised and were able to provide a reliable answer to them.

Item 6 on the table shows the occupational distribution of the respondents. From the table above, it is that 3 (0.8%) of the respondents stated that they are Artisans, 3 (0.8%) of the respondents stated that they are Barbers, 6 (1.6%) of the respondents stated that they are Caterers, 93 (24%) of the respondents stated that they are Civil servants, 6 (1.6%) of the respondents stated that they are Clergies, 9 (2.3%) of the respondents stated that they are Distributors, 15 (3.9%) of the respondents stated that they are Entrepreneurs, 4 (1%) of the respondents stated that they are Farmers, 3 (0.8%) of the respondents stated that they are Unemployed, 12 (3.1%) of the respondents stated that they are Photographers, 3 (0.8%) of the respondents stated that they are Security officers, 27 (7%) of the respondents stated that they are Self-employed, 107 (27.6%) of the respondents stated that they are Students, 3 (0.8%) of the respondents stated that they are Tailors, and 90 (23.3%) of the respondents stated that they are Traders. This implies that the majority of the respondents are Students. The interpretation of this implies that respondents cuts across different occupations.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the role of local government in Ayedaade Community development?

Table 2: Summary table of Chi-Square goodness of fitness test

	Local government council has continued to play an active role in community development.
N	387
Test Statistic	463.607
Degrees of Freedom	4
Asymptotic Sig. (2-sided test)	.000

**0.05 level of significant

Source: SPSS COMPUTATION, 2019

The above research question was answered using the Chi-Square goodness of fitness test. The result indicated that there is a significant

role of local government administration in Ayedaade Community development. ($\chi^2(4) = 463.607, p < .05$). Therefore, it can be concluded that the Local government council has played an active role in community development in Ayedaade Local government.

Research question 2: *What are some of the challenges faced by Ayedaade local government in Community development?*

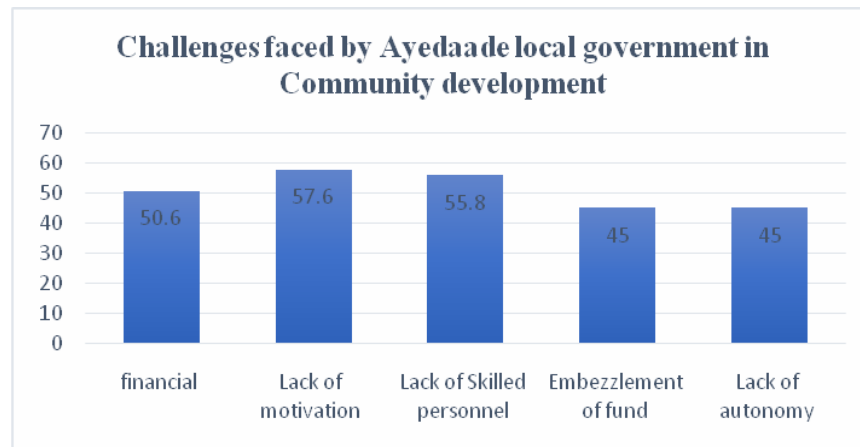
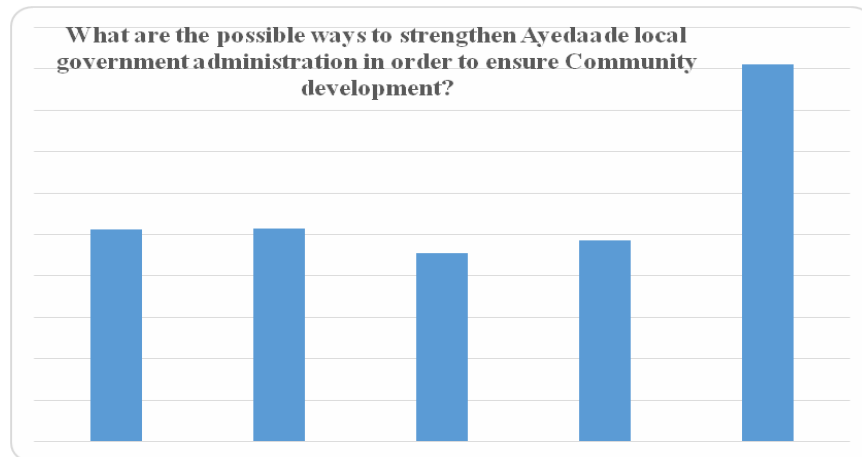


Figure 2: Show some of the challenges faced by Ayedaade local government in Community development.

Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

The figure above revealed that lack of finance hinder the achievement of government goals in community development, which is at (50.6%), Lack of motivation among the staff of the local government militates against development responsibilities at (57.6%), Lack of Skilled personnel among the staff of the local government militate against community development at (55.8%), Embezzlement of the fund contributed to low performance of Ayedaade Local Government in the community development at (45.0%) and Lack of autonomy has contributed to low performance of Ayedaade Local Government in carrying community development at (45.0%). From the above result, it was revealed that lack of motivation among the staff of the local government services as the challenge faced by Ayedaade local government in Community development.

Research question 3: What are the possible ways to strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure Community development?



Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

Figure 3: What are the possible ways to strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure Community development?

The figure above shows that adequate empowerment program should be provided, which is at (51.2%), Provision of the conducive working environment (51.7%), Provision of the adequate fund to the Local Government at (45.5%), local government should have the autonomy to carry out the developmental project at (48.6%) and regular payment of salaries and incentives at (91.2%). From the above result, it was revealed that the possible way to strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure Community development is the regular payment of salaries and incentives for local government workers which will enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out community development.

Discussion of Findings

The study focuses on the role of local government in Community development using Ayedaade Local government in Osun State as a case study. It prosecuted several research questions to achieve some stated objectives relating to the extent to which the activities of the local government have affected community development in Ayedaade Community.

Research Question 1: Has the local government been able to effect socio-economic and political development in Community development?

Findings from the study reveal that the local government is been able to effect socio-economic and political development in the Community development of Ayedaade local government by providing Infrastructures like health centers in the community. Furthermore, to affirm the above question, a simple chi-square test was performed to ascertain the role of local government administration in community development. In testing the question, the chi-square goodness of fitness test, reveals that the Local government council has played an active role in community development in Ayedaade Local government. This implies that there is a significant relationship between local government and community development. It is the role of the local government to foster such initiatives and organize groups involved in crime control in their various localities to give room for the community to develop (Asheroft, 2001).

Research Question 2: What are some of the challenges faced by Ayedaade local government in Community development?

The study found that lack of motivation among the staff of the local government services as the challenge faced by Ayedaade local government in Community development, during the course of this study a large number of the respondents strongly affirm lack of motivation among the staff of the local government militates against development responsibilities. Therefore, the government should motivate the staff of the local government in other to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of community development responsibilities. Schlachter, Coleman, and Anway, (2013) demonstrated the inherent challenges associated with running Local administration in Britain and by implication with developed economies. These include managing budgetary demands in the face of revenue decreases and increased service demands, costs of unfunded state and federal mandates as well as meeting the demands of infrastructure and its associated costs. However, the responses to these challenges in each system to a large extent determine the effectiveness of the systems in service delivery. An effect, disproportionate funds were often released by the state government to meet the needs of LGs which often fell short to pay staff salaries and for efficient administrative management. Hence, the scenario

of 1983/84 is repeating itself in 2017/2020 whereby salaries remained unpaid for upward of 5 to 10 months to LG staff in most states of the federation necessitating a bailout from Buhari administration Ovaga, (2009). Therefore, as observed by Chukwumeka (2014); Ani (2013); Ezeani (2012); and Ugwu (2010), the financial resources directly available to LGAs in Nigeria are grossly inadequate placed side by side the societal expectations and constitutionally assigned responsibilities.

Research Question 3: What are the possible ways to strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure Community development?

The study revealed that regular payment of salaries and incentives for local government workers which will enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out community development. However, frequent payment of salaries and incentives for local government workers will strengthen Ayedaade local government administration to ensure Community development. Adeyemi, (2012) revealed that Local government is supposed to provide services and internal support for communities and the technical assistance provided can aid community development. When the local government provides support for communities, it contributes greatly to economic development, infrastructure, and quality of life of the common man.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This study evaluated the role of local government in the process of community development in Nigeria. It identified Local Government as the nearest government to the people and thus, a channel through which the community feels the pulse of other higher levels of government. To this effect, the paper contends that Local Government is the hub for social, political, and economic mobilization and galvanization of the citizens for effective participation in the community and national development. Far from providing the community with supports such as funds technical, material and financial support for the community development practice, Local Government also undertakes some developmental services in the community even without the financial/technical assistance of the said community. However, the study identified

several challenges that militate against these roles and they include weak financial, Lack of motivation, lack of skilled personnel among the staff, embezzlement of funds, and lack of autonomy among the vast majority of the populace amongst others. The study proffered some functional solution to the challenges and they include: Adequate empowerment programs, Provision of a conducive working environment, provision of adequate funds to the local government which will bring an end to financial challenges; local government should have the autonomy to carry out developmental projects and Regular payment of salaries and incentives for local government workers amongst others. After all, community development is all about the development of the community through the active involvement of the indigenes. The study concludes that the challenges of local government being an enviable institution for democratic participation, an effective and efficient system for socio-economic development of the grass-root among others are attitudinal and institutional. These challenges are not insurmountable given the sincerity of purpose on the part of the federal and state governments to genuinely allow the spirit of the 1999 constitution to work by curbing overbearing attitude of the state government, minimize corruption and make the system accountable.

Based on the findings from this study and to bring the effectiveness of the role of local government for community development, the following recommendations were put forward by this study. There should be a Bottom-bottom-up approach (Participatory Approach) in planning, implementing, monitoring, controlling, and evaluating the development schemes and programs that are highly advocated by throwing out the unwanted top-down approach. Thus, people participating in all the stages of development programs need to be encouraged for success. The absence of good governance was found to be a major impediment curtailing the local government to play its role as an expected level. The local government needs to preserve good governance by showing a high degree of transparency, accountability, and participation. The local government administration needs to do a lot in introducing the use of technology for faster development of the community. Technology in the areas of housing, construction, infrastructure, agriculture, and allied activities needs to be introduced to the local community

at a low cost. Ayedaade committee members are expected to exert a greater degree of cooperation, cordial relationship, and to act as a mediator between the local government and community. They need to present the issues and problems faced by the community to the authority very often. The autonomy of the local government needs to be preserved. In this regard, the federal government is expected to ascertain the decentralization of the activities of local government. The adequate budget needs to be allocated on an annual basis by taking into account the important development programs as felt by the community.

References

- Adamolekun, L. Olowu, D. & Laleye, M. (1988) *Local government in West Africa since independence*. Lagos: University of Lagos.
- Adeyemi, O. (2012). Corruption and local government administration in Nigeria: A discourse of core issues. *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, 1 (2), 183-198.
- Agbakoba R, (2004). *Local government administration and development in Nigeria*. Lagos: The Human Rights Law Services, 6-7.
- Aina, D. A (2006). From native administration, divisional administration to council-manager and local government. In O. Aborissade & I.O. Aransi (Eds.), *State and local government in Nigeria: The changing scene* (pp.279-303). North Carolina: Catawba.
- Ajayi, K (2000) Justification and theories of local government. In K. Ajayi (Ed.), *Theory and practice of local government*. Ado-Ekiti: University of Ado-Ekiti.
- Ani, A. (2013). *Advanced local government finance*. Enugu: Spring Time Press.
- Aragone, E. & Sanchez-Pages, S (2008). A theory of participatory democracy based on the real cause of Porto Alegre. *European Economic Review*, 53(1), 56-72.
- Cavaye, J. (2003). *Issues, opportunities, and some ways forward based on experiences in rural and regional communities*. Paper presented at the shaping your community through smart practice conference, Cavaye community development, Boonah, Queensland.
- Christenson J.A. & Robinson J.W. (1989). *Community development in perspective*. Iowa: Iowa State University Press.
- Chukwuemeka, E., Ugwuanyi, B., Ndubuisi-Okolo, P., & Onuoha, C (2014). Nigerian local government: A discourse on the theoretical imperatives in a governmental system. *An International Multidisciplinary Journal*, 8(2), 33-45.
- Cockroft, J.D. (1970). *Dependency and development: Latin America's political economy*. New York: Anchor Books.

- Easton, D. (1965). *A framework for political analysis*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- Eboh, E., & Diejomaoh, I. (2010). Research centre for management and social studies. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research*, 2(5), 25-55.
- Eboh, E. & Diejomaoh, I. (2010). Local governments in Nigeria: Relevance and effectiveness in poverty reduction and economic development. *Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development*, 1(1) 25-34.
- Eluwa, E.O. (2012). *Delivering the goods: Repositioning local governments in Nigeria to achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs)* 66th Inaugural Lecture of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- Ezeani, E.O (2004). *Local government administration in Nigeria*. Enugu: Zik-Chuks Printing Press.
- Ezeani, E.O. (2006). *Fundamentals of public administration*. Enugu: Saap Publishers.
- Ezeani, E.O. (2011). *Fundamentals of public administration*. Enugu: Saap Press Ltd.
- Fischer, J.M. (1993). Insiders and outsiders. *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 24, 155-160.
- Gboyega, A. (1987). *Political values and local government in Nigeria*. Lagos Malthouse Press.
- Green, G. P., & Haines, A. (2012). *Asset building & community development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Hanachor, M.E. (2009). *Influence of community based organizations in community development*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Port Harcourt.
- Ikelegbe, A. O. (2005). The local government system and grassroots development in Nigeria: Issues, problems and challenges. In A. G. Onokerhoraye, & G. Omuta (Eds.), *Perspectives on development: A book in honour of Pius Oghenerukohwo Sada* (pp.37-63). Benin City: Centre for Population and Environmental Development.
- Kenyon, P (1994). Restoring full employment. *Australian Economic Review*, 27, 31-46.
- McKenzie, L.W. (1954) Local government parliament. *Econometrica*, 22, 147-161.
- Mills J.N. (1964). Circadian rhythms during and after three months in solitude underground. *The Journal of Physiology*, 174 (2), 217-231.
- Oberle, J D, & Stowers, K. (1975). Implications for development: Social participation of the poor in the Ozarks. *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 6(2), 64-78.
- Oni, E.O. (1999). *An introduction to local government administration in Nigeria*. Ibadan: Ejon Publishers.
- Oyediran, O. (1979). *Nigerian government and politics under military rule: 1966- 1979*. London: Macmillan Press Ltd.

- Sanders, I. T. (1958). Theories of community development. *Rural Sociology*, 23, 1-12.
- Schlachter, B., Coleman, M. & Anway, H. (2013). *Fiscal policy and governance committee key challenges and strategies for local government*. University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics. Retrieved 20 July 2019, from <http://www.iop.pitt.edu/documents/Key>
- Sharpe, L. J. (1970). Theories and values of local government. *Political Studies*, 18(2), 153–174.
- Sokar, A.P. (1978). *Bringing the government closer to the people, myth or reality: The military and local government in TW Land, 1966-1979*. M.Sc. thesis.
- Todaro, M.P. (1981). *Economic development in the Third World*. New York: Longman.
- Voth, K.L. (1975). Lecturing work: A collaborative study with Harold Garfinkel. *Human Studies* 35(2), 175-192.
- Wraith, R.E. (1964). *Local administration in West Africa*. London: Allen and Urwin.
- Yamane, T. (1973) *Statistics: An introductory analysis*. (3rd ed.). New York: Harper and Row.