

EFFECT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION ON GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of Local Government Administration on Grassroots Development in Southeast Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to: examine the effect of local government administration in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria; ascertain the effect of local government administration in the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria and evaluate the effect of local government administration in the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. The population of the study was 1,693,353. Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size of 625. The study employed mean score in data analysis while Chi-square analysis was used to test the hypotheses. The findings showed that local government administrations have contributed significantly in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria, that Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria and that Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. The study concluded that local government administration has contributed in the provision of health care services, educational services and rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. It is recommended that local governments in Southeast Nigeria should endeavor to exploit the existing sources of internal revenue (such as tourism potentials) to the full, this will enable them to do more in the provision of rural road network.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the roles of government is to uphold people's rights to life, liberty, and property while also ensuring that they have access to basic services (Oluwatobi, 2019). The efficient and timely delivery of public goods to the sizable rural population is largely dependent on local government. A system of local government based on democratic principles is guaranteed by Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution, and it says that the role of the local government council is to take part in the development of their region (Abbas and Ahmad, 2012). According to Ogbette, Idam, and Kareem (2018), the purpose of local government is to increase involvement in governance, service delivery to promote socio-economic development, and good governance. Other specific reasons for the establishment of local government, according to Anyanti, Onyekwelu, and Dike (2021), comprise, but are not limited to, ensuring that suitable services and development initiatives are responsive to local desires and initiatives by transferring or delegating them to local representative bodies. Other reasons include educating and enlisting the many communities in their areas of authority to participate in the general development of those areas. Currently, local government administrations are failing to fulfill their constitutional obligations, which include providing basic infrastructures like safe roads, quality healthcare, quality education, etc. These have caused many rural residents, particularly young people, to move to urban areas in quest of greener pastures. In many local government areas in the Southeast of Nigeria, rural life has gotten more harder. The entire failure of municipal government is now too obvious.

According to Akani (2017), the state government currently has a solid hold over local government councils, influencing them according to the whims of the governor via the weakened State House of Assembly. In such a situation,

it becomes abundantly clear that the local administration has very little to deliver in terms of local communities' or grassroots development, including the provision of social services (health, education, etc.) and basic infrastructure (rural/farm roads, food markets, parks, etc.), as the state governors who have taken "ownership" of the councils would not permit them access to their funds. Currently, local government administrations are failing to fulfill their constitutional obligations, which include providing basic infrastructures like safe roads, quality healthcare, quality education, etc. These have caused many rural residents, particularly young people, to move to urban areas in quest of greener pastures. In many local government areas in the Southeast of Nigeria, rural life has gotten more harder. The entire failure of municipal government is now too obvious.

Southeast Nigerian local government administrations have put enormous effort towards rural development. Over the years, the majority of the local government areas in Southeast Nigeria have started and finished a variety of community development projects in the local communities. One example of such a project is the supply of basic education, bridges, health centers, culverts, adult education centers, power, feeder roads, boreholes, pothole filling, drainage construction, and the establishment and equipment of security outfits. These provisions, which are insufficient in comparison to the amount allocated to local government districts, have not been able to alleviate the suffering of the throngs of rural residents in Southeast Nigeria. Akani (2017) adds that the government's proximity to the local population may have made it possible for it to carry out the designated duties, which were more concerned with providing services in line with the needs and aspirations of the local people. The results of the current local government administration are that the rural areas in Southeast Nigeria have not yet experienced the much-needed development. Instead of rural growth, it has been rural impoverishment. In the light of the above, this study is an evaluation of the effect of Local Government Administration on Grassroots Development in Southeast Nigeria.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The goal of local government is to promote effective governance and service delivery to the people in order to increase socioeconomic development and citizen participation. Unfortunately, despite widespread support for local government administration as a viable solution capable of inspiring the populace at large to participate in governance, there has never been a true third-tier government in Nigeria. To include local residents in the development process and expand the boundaries of democracy, 774 local government councils and around 36 states have been established. The most distressing aspect of the flawed pattern of governance is that it has alienated the populace at large, depriving many Southeast Nigerians of the advantages of development like access to subpar rural road networks and fundamental health and educational facilities. The goal of these local regions' growth has still not been achieved despite efforts to make government more accessible to the populace by increasing the number of local governments in Southeast. Many rural communities are now responsible for grassroots development, often with very little help from them due to the declining effectiveness of local government administration. Many rural residents of Southeast Nigeria still do not have access to essential services including healthcare, elementary education, a rural road network, clean water, power, good roads, unemployment, etc. Poor service delivery is frequently a result of the constitutional power struggle between the federal and state governments over "who controls what and how" in the affairs of local government. The state joint local government account is a reflection of local activity throughout Nigeria. The local government is now in a desperate condition as a result of this unwholesome circumstance, and providing social services to the populace at large has become an arduous chore. In the light of the above, the study evaluated the effect of Local Government Administration on Grassroots Development in Southeast Nigeria.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The broad objective of the study was on the effect of Local Government Administration on Grassroots Development in Southeast Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were :

- i. To examine the effect of local government administration in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria;
- ii. To ascertain the effect of local government administration in the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria.
- iii. To evaluate the effect of local government administration in the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria.

1.3 Research questions

The following research questions were raised for the study.

- i. What is the effect of local government administration in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria?
- ii. How has local government administration effected the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria?
- iii. What effect does local government administration have in the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria?

1.4 Hypotheses

The following alternate hypotheses were formulated to guide the study,

- i. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria.
- ii. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria.
- iii. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria.

1.5 Scope of the study

The study examined how Southeast Nigeria's local government administration affected grassroots development. The Southeast Zone of Nigeria serves as the study's geographical setting. Anambra, Enugu, and Ebonyi were the three southeastern states where the study was carried out. The goal of the analysis was to determine how local government administration in Southeast Nigeria affects the delivery of health care services, fundamental educational services, and rural road networks. The 2011–2021 period was covered. The time frame was picked because it covered two distinct Nigerian political regimes.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Local Government

A political entity known as local government (LG) has been envisioned as a means for local communities to conduct their public affairs within the confines of the law. Local governments are founded on purpose by law or constitution. Local government is defined by Nnaa and Abeki (2017) as a legally created, significant control over local affairs, political subdivision of a nation (or in a federal system or state), with the power to charge taxes or force labor for certain objectives. Ola (2019) views local government as a form of government whose primary goal is to address the needs of its constituents at the local level. To Nweneka (2018), local government areas are essentially the actual, physical places or regions that are governed or under the administration of by local system of government. According to Kyenge (2013), the purpose of local government is to devolve political authority to local communities by involving the local populace in meeting basic requirements. In particular, grassroots government is a level of government created by legislation to exercise political authority via a representative council within a specific geographic area. It is below the national, regional, and state levels of government. Basic health care, educational, and rural road network maintenance are the key responsibilities of local government in the territory under its control.

2.2 Health Care Services

To Akinseye (2020), citing the World Health Organization (2012), "health is a condition of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not only the absence of diseases or disability." The greatest way to ensure everyone takes access to health care and services is through primary health care (PHC), which is both efficient and effective.

By safeguarding people from sickness, illness, accidents, and other physical and mental disabilities, as well as by identifying and treating them, health care aims to maintain or improve people's physical and mental well-being.

Health practitioners in allied health disciplines provide medical care. As stated in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care as well as necessary social services," the foundation of primary health care is a obligation to social justice and equity as well as the acknowledgment of the fundamental right to the main attainable standard of health. The provision of crucial healthcare to the rural population is, in this sense, one of the main responsibilities of local government.

2.3 Educational Services

Education is a social service that provides a framework for human resource development and enhances the information required for a nation's economic and social progress. Reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and other academic teaching services are all considered educational services. It has evolved into a set of services that call for participation from both the public and private sectors. In Nigeria, the local government is essentially mandated by the constitution to oversee elementary education, although the state and the federal governments are also required to carry out their duties effectively at all educational levels. According to Asogwa (2007), who was referenced by Eze (2015), local governments have the aim or determination to improve the welfare and level of living of their residents by offering amenities (such as educational services) to those who, for the most part, have been in need for a very long time. According to the constitution, the local government is responsible for providing other crucial educational services as well as paying primary school teachers' wages.

2.4 Rural Road Network

The term "road network" refers to a system of connected roads intended to carry both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. To ensure high-quality connections between the various areas of a geographical territory, it is crucial to foresee a deliberate, ongoing extension and adequate maintenance of these networks (Archibong, 2017). They make it possible for people to access jobs, institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other facilities around the world. Road infrastructure raises the level of living for people and helps make their lives easier while also enhancing the efficacy and efficiency of

nations. A developed nation's road system is a crucial resource that supports its economy, freight transportation, and citizens' standard of living. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2013). In this instance, local government administration in Nigeria is charged under the constitution with the primary upkeep of rural roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems.

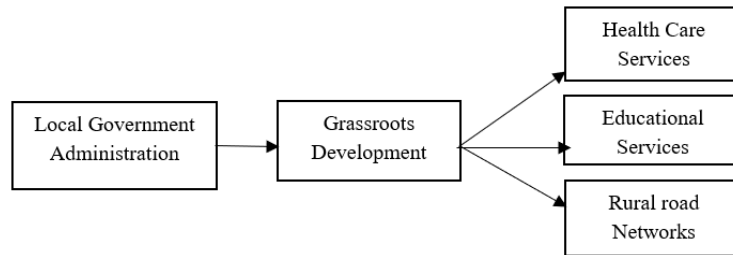


Figure 2.1. Conceptual framework
Source: Author’s conceptualization, 2022

2.5 Theoretical Framework

In Southeast Nigeria, local government and grassroots development were evaluated using the collective action theory. The idea was put forth by (Wright 1990). Traditional definitions of collective action theory include any action taken by a group representative with the intention of enhancing the group's condition (such as status or power) (Wright 1990). This idea states that it outlines a scenario where several people would gain via a single action. By applying this theory to our research, we can conclude that the actions taken by the group's elected representatives (such as chairmen and councillors) at the local government to ensure the smooth operation of the community include the provision of basic amenities like good roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, primary health care, and education, among others. At the end of the day, an activity organized by a small group would produce a situation from which the entire group or several individuals would profit (representatives). The economic theory of collective action is concerned with how two or more people might work together to provide public goods and how externalities affect group dynamics. Public choice is a typical term used to describe it. The local government's development duties specifically include nation-building as well as the development of social, economic, and human resources. One example is that the local government invests funds generated centrally and given to them in the development of infrastructure. These infrastructures will help the local population become more active in improving their own lives and the lives of their communities. Thus, local governments act as units of development through which national development initiatives, resources, and advantages filter down to the grassroots together with the states and the national government.

2.6 Empirical Review

In Anambra State, Ananti, Onyekwelu, and Dike (2021) investigated the impact of local government administration on grassroots development. The research used a descriptive survey approach. Chi-square (2) inferential statistics and summary statistics were used in the analysis. The key findings are that Anambra State's local government administrations have not been able to significantly provide social services (such as health and education) and basic physical infrastructural facilities (such as community/farm roads, portable water, motor parks, food markets, and rural electrification). As a result, no grassroots growth has occurred. The Administration of Primary Health Care Program in Local Government in Nigeria: A Case Study of Ibadan South West Local Government was explored by Akinseye (2020). The number of respondents in this study was determined using a simple percentage and a descriptive survey design as the research approach. The results showed that the management of primary healthcare is efficient at the local level and that efficient management of the PHC will enhance the Nigerian primary healthcare system; Local Government Administration and Service Delivery in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges was the subject of a 2019 study by Ola. The study used a content-analytical approach. The study highlighted a number of factors that hinder efficient service delivery by the local government administration in Nigeria, including a lack of autonomy, poor management of existing resources, corruption, a lack of openness and accountability, and a shortage of qualified personnel. In their study of the Lafia Local Government Area on Nasarawa State, Hamza and Yahaya (2019) considered the role of local government in rural development in Nigeria. The hypothesis was examined using the chi-square. The study's conclusions show that Lafia's local government promotes rural development by giving the community access to social facilities.

Local Government and Primary Education in Nigeria: An Overview was the topic of a study by Odewale (2019). The secondary system of data collection, content analysis, showed that Local government has significantly contributed to the operation of primary education, both in mandatory and concurrent capacities with the state government, especially in the payment of teacher salaries and allowances, provision of instructional materials, provision of classrooms, and other

infrastructures needed for the efficient operation of primary education in Nigeria. The study came to the conclusion that local governments continue to play a significant role in basic education in Nigeria. Okafor, Chukwuemeka, and Udentia (2015) looked at a local government model for socioeconomic development at the local level in Nigeria. The paper that used content analysis found that the misuse of constitutional requirements and a lack of dedication had a detrimental impact on the growth of the grassroots in Nigeria's local government regions. Odo (2014) looked at Nigeria's local governments and the difficulties facing grassroots development. Since the study used content analysis, it was discovered that local governments have significantly underperformed in terms of rural/grassroots development. The report comes to the conclusion that, despite its subpar achievement, local government administration is still best suitable to foster local development, which highlights a vital and persuasive need to improve the local government system's capability for service delivery.

Internally Generated Revenue and Local Government Performance in Nigeria: Implications for Rural Development was the focus of Otu and Anam's 2019 research. The study's development incorporated the qualitative research approach. To discuss the issues mentioned, content analysis was used in the study. The study found that local governments in Nigeria have low revenue capacities, which hampers their efforts to carry out rural development programs. Tolu (2014) used straightforward content analysis to do research on local government and rural infrastructure delivery in Nigeria. The study's findings made it abundantly evident that there is no rural infrastructure network in the area, and where it is, it has significantly deteriorated and unsuitable for any significant development. In Kaduna State's Soba and Zaria Local Government Areas, Zakari Ya'u (2014) conducted a study on the impact of local government on rural development (2006-2011). For data display and analysis, descriptive and inferential statistical methods were employed. The non-parametric Spearman rank coefficient correlation tool was used to analyze the data. The research areas' rural development has been plagued by insufficient funding, it was found.

2.7 Gaps in Empirical Review

The empirical studies reviewed so far focused mainly on local government administration and Grassroots Development of Nigeria. Many studies have been conducted in many parts of Nigeria using different methodologies such as content analysis, Chi-square and correlation analysis. None of these studies was carried out in Southeast with emphasis local government administration and grassroots development in Southeast Nigeria, the present study therefore will fill the gap.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Since only a portion of the population is under investigation with the goal of generalizing the findings to the full population of importance, the study used a descriptive survey design. In addition, Obasi (2000) notes that surveys are consistently used since they offer a crucial method of information gathering, particularly once the essential data cannot be located in any statistical record in the form of secondary data (Official Statistics). In Southeast Nigeria, the study was carried out. The five states that make up the Southeast are Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo State. But only three of the five Southeast Asian states—Anambra, Ebonyi, and Enugu State—were chosen. Due to their proximity to one another and to the researcher, the three states were picked. It provided the researcher with a framework for examining how Southeast Nigeria's local government administration affects community development. Both secondary and primary methods of data collecting were used in the study. The secondary technique heavily relies on information acquired from books, reports, government publications, conference papers, journals, and conference papers. Questionnaires were used to gather the main data. The population of the study was 1693353. The population used for the study is presented in the table below.

Table 3.1: Population distribution of selected LGAs

State	LGA	Population	Percentage
Anambra	Orumba South	244,200	15
	Awka North	148,400	9
	Onistha South	181,500	11
Enugu	Aninri	183,900	11
	Enugu South	267,300	16
	Uzo-Uwani	171,600	10
Ebonyi	Ohaozara	148,317	9
	Ishielu	152,581	9
	Ohaukwu	195,555	11
	Total	1693353	100

Source: National Population Commission 2006 Population Projection for 2016.

The Taro Yamani's formula (1973) is herein adopted to estimate the study's sample as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size; N = population size; I = constant, n = Margin of error, Using 4% as error estimate

Therefore

$$n = \frac{1693353}{1+1693353 (0.04)^2} = \frac{1693353}{1+1693353 (0.0016)} = \frac{1693353}{1 +2709.3648} = \frac{1693353}{2710.3648} = 625$$

3.2 Sampling Technique

The study includes nine (9) LGAs, one in each senatorial area (one urban and one rural), that were purposefully chosen from the three senatorial districts in the three designated States. The necessity for balanced responses from the populace guided the decision to mix urban and rural areas. Community leaders who are traditional chiefs, president generals, members of their cabinets, women chiefs, youth chiefs, religious chiefs, and representatives of CBOs, FBOs, NGOs, opinion leaders, and other stakeholders make up the study's population. In all, 625 of these groups of community members were found throughout the LGAs, and they made up the study's population.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

In this study, the researcher's instrument was a questionnaire. They were given out to every respondent in each of their several Enugu State locations by the researcher. The survey was formatted using a five-point Likert scale. The thesis supervisor validated the questionnaire's content. The questionnaire was also distributed to a few research specialists for advice, constructive criticism, and face validity. Thus, before distributing the questionnaire to the respondents, adjustments and alterations were done. Using 25 respondents from the Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State who were not involved in the original study, a test-retest reliability approach was determined. It was determined that the reliability analysis coefficient was 0.77.

3.4 Methods of Data Analyses

The study's analysis was built on a straightforward explanation of the pertinent statistical data. The creation and analysis of mean scores are included in this. The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square test method. The chi-square formula is a formula is stated thus.

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

χ^2 = Chi-square, O = Observed Frequency, E = Expected Frequency, \sum = Summation of all items

Decision rule

Reject Ho if the calculated value of χ^2 is greater than the critical value of χ^2 otherwise accept Ho.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Data presentation

To analyze the results, this portion was separated into various sections. The descriptive analysis, the chi-square test, and a discussion of the findings are all included. 560 of the 625 questionnaires that were distributed were correctly filled out. Only 65 questionnaires, however, were determined to be invalid because of tampering or repeated responses.

Research Question One: To what extent has local government administration contributed to the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria?

Table 4.1: The contribution of local government administration in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria

s/n	Items	Very High Extent	Low Extent	Undecided	Low extent	Very Low Extent	Frequency	Mean	Decision
1	Provision of basic antenatal service	160	260	21	49	70	560	3.7	Accepted
2	Supply of drugs to different health centers across the state	178	222	29	81	50	560	3.7	Accepted
3	Equitable distribution of drugs and vaccine against diseases in the areas	171	211	29	69	80	560	3.6	Accepted

4	Provision immunization service to the people at the grassroots	186	184	22	108	60	560	3.6	Accepted
5	Construction and maintenance of basic health infrastructure in the rural communities	233	160	37	90	40	560	3.8	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.67	

Source: Field Survey, 2022

NB: VHE=Very High Extent, HE= High Extent, U= Undecided, LE= Low Extent, VLE= Very Low Extent

The respondents' average thoughts on how local government administration contributes to the delivery of healthcare services in Southeast Nigeria are displayed in Table 4.1. The information in the table demonstrated that the respondents agreed with the posed question. A clear indicator that the respondents are persuaded that local government administration has a major impact on the delivery of healthcare services in Southeast Nigeria is the Mean Score of 3.7, 3.7, 3.6, 3.8, and the grand mean score of 3.67.

Research Question Two: How has local government administration effected the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria?

Table 4.2: Local government administration and the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria

s/n	Item	Very High Extent	Low Extent	Undecided	Low extent	Very Low Extent	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Regular payment of primary school teachers salary as at when due	220	210	20	70	40	560	3.9	Accepted
2	Provision of desks in many primary schools at the grassroots	200	210	25	95	30	560	3.8	Accepted
3	Maintenance of existing school buildings	152	238	30	80	60	560	3.6	Accepted
4	The local government administration provide textbooks and audio-visual materials in many primary schools	200	220	20	90	70	560	3.9	Accepted
5	Training and retraining of primary school teachers for improved service delivery	240	200	30	100	30	560	4.1	Accepted
	Grand Mean							4.6	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The respondents' average judgments on how local government administration affected the delivery of fundamental educational services in Southeast Nigeria are displayed in Table 4.2. The findings unmistakably demonstrated that the respondents' responses to the research topic addressed were positive. The respondents' consensus that local government administration has aided in the delivery of fundamental educational services in the Southeast of Nigeria was shown by the grand mean score of 4.6.

Research Question Three: To what extent has the local government administration contributed in the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria?

Table 4.3: Effect of local government administration in the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria

s/n	Item	Very High Extent	Low Extent	Undecided	Low extent	Very Low Extent	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Construction of rural roads	191	199	28	92	50	560	3.6	Accepted
2	Construction of bridges in the rural communities	220	190	19	80	51	560	3.8	Accepted
3	Maintenance of existing rural road networks	220	199	31	80	30	560	3.9	Accepted
4	Construction of drainage system in the rural communities	200	230	12	78	40	560	3.8	Accepted
5	They help in the Mobilization of people for rapid rural development of the grass-roots with special reference to rural road maintenance	230	180	21	89	40	560	3.8	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.8	

The respondents' average judgments on how local government administration affected the delivery of fundamental educational services in Southeast Nigeria are displayed in Table 4.2. The findings unmistakably demonstrated that the respondents' responses to the research topic addressed were positive. The respondents' consensus that local government administration has aided in the delivery of fundamental educational services in the Southeast of Nigeria was shown by the grand mean score of 4.6.

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

Chi-square test is used to analyse the Internally-Generated Revenues and Service Delivery by Local Government Authorities in Southeast Nigeria.

The Chi-square formula as:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where O = observed frequency, E = Expected frequency, **Assumptions:** Level of significance = 0.05

Decision Rule:

1. Reject Ho if the P-Value cal < 0.05 at 5% level of significance.
2. Otherwise accept the null hypothesis (Ho).

Test of Hypothesis One

- i. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria.

Table 4.4: Chi-Square Tests for Local government administration and provision of healthcare services

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	101.403(a)	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	90.626	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	9.602	1	.002
N of Valid Cases	600		

a 13 cells (52.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .24.

SOURCE: SPSS Output version 23

Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; $\chi^2_{cal} = 101.403, p = 0.00$

Decision: From the Chi-square analysis in Table 4.4, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 101.403 and P-value of 0.00, Table 4.4 showed that local government management has a favorable impact on health care services in Southeast Nigeria. This impact is statistically significant at the 5% level of significance because the P-value falls inside this threshold. This finding supports our alternative hypothesis number one (Ho), which claims that local government management has a major impact on the delivery of healthcare services in Southeast Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two

- i. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria.

Table 4.5: Chi-Square Tests for Local government administration and provision of Basic Educational Services

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	190.310(a)	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	125.398	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	40.659	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	600		

a 8 cells (40.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .47.

SOURCE: SPSS Output version 23

Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; $\chi^2_{cal} = 190.310, p = 0.00$

Decision: From the Chi-square analysis in Table 4.4, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 190.310 and P-value of 0.00, Table 4.5 showed that local government administration has a favorable impact on the delivery of educational services in the Southeast. This impact is statistically significant at the 5% level of significance because the P-value is outside of this threshold. This finding supports our alternative hypothesis one (Hi), according to which local government management has a major impact on the delivery of fundamental educational services in Southeast Nigeria.

Hypothesis Three

- i. Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria.

Table 4.6: Chi-Square Tests for Local government administration and rural road network

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	41.344(a)	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	23.016	16	.288
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.851	1	.028
N of Valid Cases	600		

a. 22 cells (73.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

SOURCE: SPSS Output version 23

Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; $\chi^2_{cal} = 41.344$, $p = 0.00$

Decision: From the Chi-square analysis in Table 4.4, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 41.344 and P-value of 0.00, in table 4.6 revealed that Local government administration have a positive influence on provision of rural road networks in Southeast and this influence is statistically significant at 5% level of significance as the P-value is within 5% significance level. This result, therefore suggests that we should accept our null hypothesis one (H_0) which states that Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria.

5. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

5.1 Local government Administration and Health care Services

The chi-square value of (D.F = 16; $X_{cal} = 103.403$, $p = 0.00$) indicates a strong association based on the outcome of hypothesis one. This shown that the delivery of healthcare services in Southeast Nigeria is significantly influenced by local government administration. The information in table 4.1 shows that most of respondents agreed with the question's premise. A clear indicator that the respondents are persuaded that local government administration had a major impact on the delivery of healthcare services in Southeast Nigeria is the Mean Score of 3.7, 3.7, 3.6, 3.8, and the grand mean score of 3.67.

5.2 Local Government Administration and Basic Educational Services

According to the findings of hypothesis two, local government administration significantly influences the delivery of fundamental educational services in Southeast Nigeria (D.F = 16; $2_{cal} = 190.310$, $p = 0.00$). The information in table 4.2 clearly demonstrated that the respondents' responses to the research question asked were positive. The respondents' consensus that local government administration has aided in the delivery of fundamental educational services in the Southeast of Nigeria was shown by the grand mean score of 4.6.

5.3 Local Government Administration and Rural Road Networks

The chi-square analysis of hypothesis three's findings showed that local government administration significantly influences the availability of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. The (D.F = 16; $X_{cal} = 41.344$, $p = 0.00$) chi-square tests. This is supported by the data from Table 4.3, where it is clear that the respondents agreed that the provision of a rural road network in Southeast Nigeria has been greatly aided by local government administration (grand means of 3.8).

5.4 Summary of Findings

The following were the findings from the study:

- i. The findings showed that local government administrations have contributed significantly in the provision of health care services in Southeast Nigeria. That implied that the local government administration contributes in the construction and maintenance of basic health infrastructure in the rural communities.
- ii. That Local government administration had a significant effect on the provision of basic educational services in Southeast Nigeria. That suggested that the local government administration provide textbooks and audio-visual materials in many primary schools.
- iii. That Local government administration has a significant effect on the provision of rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. That suggested that local government helped in the construction of drainage system in the rural communities

6. CONCLUSION

From the study, it was concluded that local government administration has contributed in the provision of health care services, educational services and rural road networks in Southeast Nigeria. The study affirmed that local government contribution to the grassroots development in Southeast Nigeria has not been significant enough going by the rate of poor infrastructural services in many rural communities. The study argue that the local government have tried within their capacity but that is not enough going by the reality on ground

6.1 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following were recommended

- i. Financial autonomy for local government administration must be introduced in order to free up more resources for the local government to invest in more worthwhile projects if local government in Southeast Asia is to fulfill its goal of providing basic healthcare services.
- ii. Local people should be given the option to choose their local government representatives rather than having this decision forced upon them. This will ensure that local government officials are answerable to the people and that local government administration has contributed to the provision of basic educational services.
- iii. It is advised that local governments in Southeast Nigeria try to fully utilize the internal revenue streams already in place (such as tourism potentials), as doing so will allow them to invest more in the construction of a rural road network.

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