

The Dependency of Local Government System in Nigeria; Factor Militating Against Socio-Economic and Political Development of the Local Areas

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Abstract

The purpose of the research is to examine the local government creation and the matters that demand urgent attention from 1976 to 2016 within its administrative development. This study has observed the challenges of local government since its creation mostly its dependent state instead of independency; the constitutional link of the state to local government and the constitutional position of the legislature on the local government activities. It is upon these Challenges that make the researchers to adopt primary data collection; such as interview, questionnaire distribution and empirical methods. The secondary data collection was used such as Internet research, textbook, journal, articles, radio and newspaper. The findings were made. In the findings, the challenges of local government in Nigeria are based on constitutional matters and its placement under state government control and its legislative power in Nigeria. These positions make local government to be marginalized among other structures of government in the country. The recommendations were made. In the recommendations, the researchers' advise federal government towards intensifying its commitment to make local government absolutely independent from federal and state through directs allocation and ensure its effective service delivery.

Key Words: Local government, dependency, development, challenges, Marginalization and constitutional issue.

Introduction

The study of this nature is anchored on the need for Absolute Independency of the local government to enable it achieves its desirable purpose in Nigeria. This is imperative following the derogative attribute face by the local government system in Nigeria. The constitutional reform after 1979 constitution that empowers the local government as the third Tier of government after federal and state derogates the third tier of governments. The joint local-state governments' allocation has played some destructive role in the development of local government area in Nigeria. The legislatives link among federal, state and local government could not be properly harmonized for effective administration in rural areas in Nigeria. Therefore, the concept of Local government defined it as the government at the local level exercised through representative councils which were established by law to exercise specific powers within its defined areas. (Local Government Reform Handbook;1992).

According to United Nations, office for public Administration (1960.3) local government is a political division of a nation or (in federal system), state which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs, influencing the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purpose (UN Report). Local government autonomy has been a product of 1976 local government reform system carried out by the federal Government of Nigeria. The reform was conducted to give local government a formal structure as the third tier of government after federal and state governments respectively. The revolution of local government in Nigeria as at 1976 during the military administration of Murtala/Obasanjo's era was based on the fragmentation of local government administrative practices to different tribes and ethnicities in Nigeria. According to Dibia C.C (2008: 220) there was multiple system of local government that operated before 1976 local government reforms. It started with indirect rule system of native authority of the emirs and law making in the North. It was multiple systems in the Southern part of Nigeria such as place divisional council, all purpose district council, local councils, city councils etc. These different councils in the South were practiced with a well defined functions and powers. There where laws inherited from British municipalities form of local government which authorized the ministers of local government to allocate these powers and functions to different level or tiers of local governments. In the South, the eastern region had two tiers system of local government; the mid-west and Western regions had three tier systems while Lagos had one tier system.

However, 1976 local government reforms was aimed at bringing all the multiple tiers systems of local government administration into a single tier all purpose local government administration, thereby conferred as the third tier government after the federal and state governments respectively. It is upon this development that enables the researchers present **the objectives** of the study in this research as follow:

- (1) To find out the problems of the local government after 1979 constitutional empowerment of the system.
- (2) To examine and analyze the reason for such problems (factors) and how it influences socio-economic and political development of the rural areas.
- (3) To articulate the preferable measures towards proffering the lasting solution to the critical situation of the system.

In the consideration of the above stated phenomena; **the research questions** of the work are as follows:

- (i) What are the problems of local government system in Nigeria?
- (ii) What are the challenges of the rural dwellers from the local government area?

The study of this nature will enable federal government look critically to the problems of the local government thereby find out the lasting measures towards the realization of the **significance** of the third tier as follow:

- (i) The Independent status of the local government as the third tier of government in Nigeria federal structure.
- (ii) It will enables the federal governments know the importance of local government thereby restore its 1979 constitutional authorities and powers of operation.

(iii) It will enable local government financial autonomy which will engender socio-economic development of the rural areas in Nigeria.

Therefore, Local government was vested with substantial powers to control its affairs. The need to decentralized powers was made paramount through the creation of local government authorities to ease the feelings of insecurity observed in a heterogeneous society like Nigeria as well as fear of domination by large ethnic group. In other word, another reform of local government administration was on 1988 based on the Dasuki Review committee inaugurated in 1984. In 1988, Babangida announced the abolition of local government ministries nationwide and ordered an immediate disbursement of funds to local government to enable them solve the problems of a situation where state direct the money to their own use that made the chairman of local government instead of the chief executive and the accounting officer now ceremonial leader. The rules and regulations were established to enhance full autonomous existence of local government. The president Babangida also introduced what is called the presidentialism into the local government system in Nigeria. The 1976 reforms of local governments made the system the third tier of government with the population of 150, 000 to 800,000 people and those reforms programs were incorporated in 1979 constitution with the introduction of presidential system of government. The reforms helped to redefine the local government through changing their orientation from the field administration of the state governments to being local government structures that are responsible to the electorates. That has been a radical and innovative step towards stability of the system in the country. Some of the highlights of the reforms are:

- Abolition of the old division as administrative system.
- The availability of multi-purpose, single tier local authorities called local government with chief executive system of management.
- The provision of federal grants to be disbursed to local governments through the states.
- The introductions of supervisory councillorship in the Southern parts of the country. Each taking care of each department of the council.

Dasuki Local Government Review Committee of 1984

The challenges and inadequacies observable in the 1976 nationwide reforms of local government generated the desire impact leading to the introduction of Dasuki Report which made an improvement on the state of local councils. However, instead of ameliorating local government problems, the reform programmes worsening the problems of local governments in Nigeria through subordination of local governments to the states. With this situation, state government makes available only ten percentages (10 %) of their internal revenues to the local government which they failed to do. The subordination of local governments to the states was completed with the introduction of sole Administrators, who became agents of the state governments and the gain of 1976 reform was lost.

In another development, the recommendations led to the scrapping of the state ministries of local council in 1988 and the policy of direct disbursement of statutory allocation was introduced.

The Local Government Reform of 1988

The local government reforms of 1988 recommend another local government review commission in 1988. Measures were adopted to strengthen the local government through:-

- Abolition of state ministries of local government which had extensive review and supervisory authority over local governments and its replacement by department of local government in the governor's office.
- Paying federal allocations to local governments directly
- By passing state government in statutory allocations which have moved from 10 percent to 23 percent.
- Strengthening local government financial administration by granting local governments authority to prepare and approve their own budgets and taxes independently of state governments.
- Ensures the rationalization of local government organizations. The transferring of primary education and primary healthcare and all related personal and facilities to local government.
- The creation of the office of the Director of local governments Audit and local government Alarm committee.
- The involvement of traditional rulers in local government affairs.

The additional government reforms were made to create 149 council in 1989 and new allocation of 15 percent to the councils. In 1990, the primary healthcare program was transferred to local council.

- The primary school administration was handed to local government in 1991 and the separation of powers and appointment of political secretaries the same year.
- Local government commission was abolished in 1992 and later reinstated while the revenue allocation formula was raised to 20 percent. The local government council was increased to 774 with both administration and financial authority granted.

The local government review of 2004

The local government review of 2004 have been an administrative review of local government activities in order to harmonize and facilitate an effective and efficient local government administrative services geared towards improving grassroots development. The review was headed by Etsu Nupe and AlhaJi Umaru Sanda Ndayako. These member review committee was later replaced by Alhaji Umaru aroma as chairman instead of Etsu Nupe late. The committee carried out the review administration according to federation directives.

However, the federal government issued white paper on the report which the National Council of states endorsed the report accordingly with the following contents. Such as:

- The report retained the existing 774 local government councils.
- Made mandatory for local government to fund their agencies and services which comprise the payment of salaries of paramount traditional Rulers and the primary school teachers.
- The local government council must submit their annual budgets to their state Houses of Assembly for approval before its implementation.

- The report gives the state House of Assembly to take the responsibility of local government administration on its legislative appropriation.
- The report pledge to make available the local government entitlement to them such as the 10 percent monthly generated revenue and all other entitlements from the federal to the states which is meant for local government.
- Lastly, the report established an inspectorate department that will enforce compliance of local government budget as approved by the planning and legal units in the local government councils.

2005 Review Report

- The 2005 review report which later enacted into law by the National Assembly give directives for local government allocation to be paid directly to local government account thereby abolished previous arrangement of state-local government joint account to prevent the possible manipulation of local government joint account in favour of state.
- The report equally increases local government statutory allocations to 23 percent to enable them fulfill the primary function of grassroots development.
- The report made certain observations considering an increase in the number of untitled functionaries in the local government council with most of the officials are with maximum of the primary and secondary school education. There was an acceptable reform on the policy decision towards providing training at all levels for all categories of local government officials. The reform initiated training programmes for senior local government officials in three centers in the country namely: Ife, Zaria and Nsukka. The reforms that enhance training of the officials of local government council promote democracy, ensures administrative innovation, promote sustainable political institutions and ensure an effective distribution of socio-economic programmed in Nigeria. Therefore, the reform programme in the local government system if properly implemented will ensure stability of the councils within the country thereby ensure the promotion of democracy and development of the grassroots level.

Main Characteristics of 1976 Local Government Reforms And Establishment in Nigeria

Local government system was established formally in 1976 through its reforms programmes towards ensuring the followings:

- **A single tier:** local government before 1976 reforms and introduction was multiple systems practicing within the country such as city council, district council, local country council and divisional council. But the reforms and introduction give room for all purpose single tier local government.
- **Uniformity:** The establishment of local government as a single tier of government in local areas gives the system a uniform system of practice and administration in the country.
- **Statutory powers and functions:** It was practiced within the ethnic groups and tribes in Nigeria without statutory powers and function from Nigeria until 1976 when specified reforms system was carried out to allocate a statutory function to it.

- **Federal government take over and the creation of the commission:** Federal government became directly involve in the local government administration through an introduction of board of service (service board or the commission) known as local government service commission in all the states of the federation.
- **The creation of traditional councils:** These reforms excluded traditional rulers and emirates council from local government council thereby stabilized the traditional institution/councils as separate entity.
- **The term of office and condition of service:** The local councilors according to the reforms were agreed to be elected on three years term of office and the staffs of the local government council were unified with that of their state and federal civil service counterparts.
- **Provision of grants:** The federal and state governments provide financial assistant to local government to enable it discharge their duties effectively.

Challenges from Local Government Reform to the Present State

- Despite the progress of the local government reforms in Nigeria, the system faced with structured challenges following the authority 1979 constitution of federation vested to states to create local government which led to proliferation of the local government in Nigeria thereby stress the limited capacity for governance at the local government level. These created problem in the sharing of limited resources among many numbers of the local governments.
- The reform equally did not address the issue of separation of powers between the arms of the government in the local government system as applicable in the presidential system of government.
- The 1999 constitution section 7(1) states that the system of local government by democratically elected local councils is under this constitution guaranteed; accordingly the government of every state shall subject to section (8) of this constitution, ensure their existence under a law which provide for the establishment structure, composition, finance and functions of such councils.

However, the section 7 (6a) of 1999 constitution of federation provide that “the National Assembly shall make provision for statutory allocation of public revenue to local councils in the federation”. And section 7(6b) compounds the confusion by stating that “House of assembly of a state shall make provisions for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils within the state.

In the same vein, section 8(5 and 6) empowers the National Assembly to legislate on new councils before they can become legal. With the state government, state House of Assembly and the National Assembly all having roles to play in the affairs of the local council, it is not a surprise that confusion, intrigues and non-performance has been the order of the day in the grassroots level thereby call for the need towards ensuring reform programmes.

Powers and functions of local government

The reforms programmes had in Nigeria made provisions for specific functions of local government towards strengthening its autonomous existence in Nigeria.

Some of the functions include:

- **The establishment, regulations and maintenance of markets and motor parks:** The local government through the local authorities are obligated to ensure the construction of markets, motor parks thereby ensures the maintenance of them around the localities towards ensuring the promotion and stabilization of rural areas in the country.
- **The provision of essential services:** such as infrastructural service and recreational facilities. The infrastructural facilities include provision of good roads, pipe borne water (bore holes) electrification (power supply), bridges, naming of streets, and construction of drainages and ensure their daily maintenance. The recreational facilities include: The stadia, tennis club center, Tourism parks and amusement parks where sports and entertainment can take place.
- **The establishment of customary courts:** The local governments through its local authorities are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the provision of customary courts that handles local matters such as marriage issues like divorce, land disputes and traditional matters of culture.
- **Revenue generation through taxes, rates, licensing:** The taxes, rate and licensing are charge by local government authorities to take responsibility of ensuring an effective collection of the taxes, market stall rates, bicycles licenses, trucks, canoes, wheel barrows and otherwise to ensure the provision of enable services for the upgrading of the councils.
- **To ensure the development of Agriculture:** The local government through its local authorities are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the development of agricultural and natural resources such as improve seedlings, storage of agricultural products, exploration of natural resources for the benefits of rural dwellers in particular and the nation in general.
- **Maintenance of law and order:** The local government through its local authorities make bye laws which controls the activities of rural areas including provision of crimes and criminal actions, and maintenance of laws and order within the areas of its jurisdiction.
- **The establishment, regulation and maintenance of the health facilities:** These can be done through provision of the health centre, maternity homes and sanitation facilities and ensures daily health services such as immunizations and free medicine services by the local government authorities.
- To make recommendations to federal and state governments on matters that help to facilitate economic development on rural areas and the country.
- To ensure the registration of births, deaths and marriages within their jurisdiction thereby ensures the provision of libraries and the payment of the teachers' salaries and pensions within the locality.

Sources of Revenues to Local Government

The local government as an independent autonomous entity through the constitution has the following sources of revenue generation. Such as:

- **Federal government allocation:** The principle of derivation and sharing of financial resources among the structures of government made provision for local government allocation from federal derivation and allocation of country's resources.

- **Federal/state grants:** The federal and state governments provide grants to local government to subsidize their monthly financial resources. The constitution requires each state government to allocate a certain proportion of its revenue to the local government authorities in its state.
- **The provision of loan from banks:** The local government through its local authorities raises funds by obtaining loans from commercial and central banks to finance their projects and ensure development.
- **The internal generated funds:** The local government through its local authorities generate revenue for the council through taxes (income tax from non salary earners and traders, the salaries earner (public servants); the rates such as water fee, markets stalls, motor parks and the license fees from levies to boast the federal and state helps from them to ensures the development of rural areas.
- **Through an investment and commercial ventures:** The local government raises funds by investing the revenue in a profit yielding economic ventures. These can be buying of shares from companies of good reputations, partnering with economic institution for its economic optimization within its locality.

The reasons for the introduction of local government in Nigeria

The local government as the structures of government of Nigeria was established with the aims, reasons and importance of ensuring the followings in the local areas:

- To provide an essential services to local inhabitants within the country.
- To ensure an effective decentralization of powers, function and services
- To ensure the rapid development of the local government areas
- To ease the feelings of insecurity and fear of ethnic domination
- To ensure government presence nearer to the people at the grass root levels
- To ensure the provision of the sense of belonging to the people
- To encourage citizen, participation in socio-politico activities as well as development of leadership acumens
- To ensure the preservation of traditional institutions within the local areas thereby ensure education of the citizens within the grass roots level about the important of policies and activities of the federal government.

Methodology

In studying the local government creation in Nigeria can understand that there are factors militating against the existence of the system and equally an achievement recorded since the establishment of the system while considering the above; this study adopt survey research method. This method was used through distribution of designed questionnaire to random selected respondents drawn from Imo State of Nigeria. This area was chosen because it is one of the thirty six states in Nigeria and contains twenty seven out of seven hundred and seventy four local governments in Nigeria today. The primary sources include questionnaire to the citizens within the state. The cluster sampling technique with the population of work force of 2,500,000 in the state was used. The sample size was secured with the Yaro Yamane formula. The sample size includes 400 with 5% estimate error of coefficient of significance to the fraction. Out of 400 question distribution to respondents; 370 was returned fully attended. The analysis and findings were made with

the use of simple percentages, frequency tables, cumulative frequency table and bar chart graph plotted to analyze the result of the findings.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1.1 Distribution and return of questionnaire

Groups	No Distribution	%	No Returned	%	No Unreturned	%
Government officials	100	25	90	22	10	2.5
Private sector	60	15	50	12.5	10	2.5
Civil society groups	240	60	230	57.5	10	2.5
Total	400	100	370	92.5	30	7.5

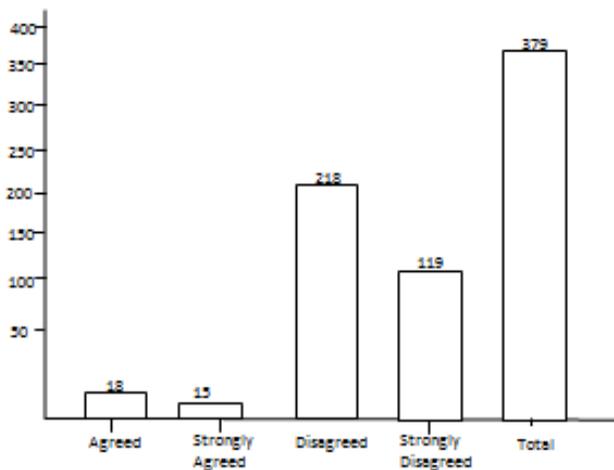
Source: Field Survey Study 2016.

The table above; out of 400 questionnaires distributed to the respondents who fell within the category of Government officials, private sector, and civil society groups ranging from 100, 60 and 240. The recovered number of questionnaire was as follow: Government officials returned 90 against 100 distributed private sector 50 against 60 and civil society 230 against 240 respectively. The summation of its percentage indicates that the number of returned questionnaire is 92.5% against the actual hundred percent distributed making huge successes in the number of recovered questionnaire.

- Do you see local government tier structure enjoying its autonomous existence since its creation?

Table 1.2

	Distribution and Government officials	Returned of private sector	Questionnaire civil society groups	f	cf	%
Agree	5	3	10	18	18	4.90
Strongly Agree	2	5	8	15	33	4.10
Disagree	43	25	150	218	251	251.59
Strongly disagreed	40	17	62	119	370	32.2
Total	90	50	230	370	67.2	100



Source: Survey Research 2016.

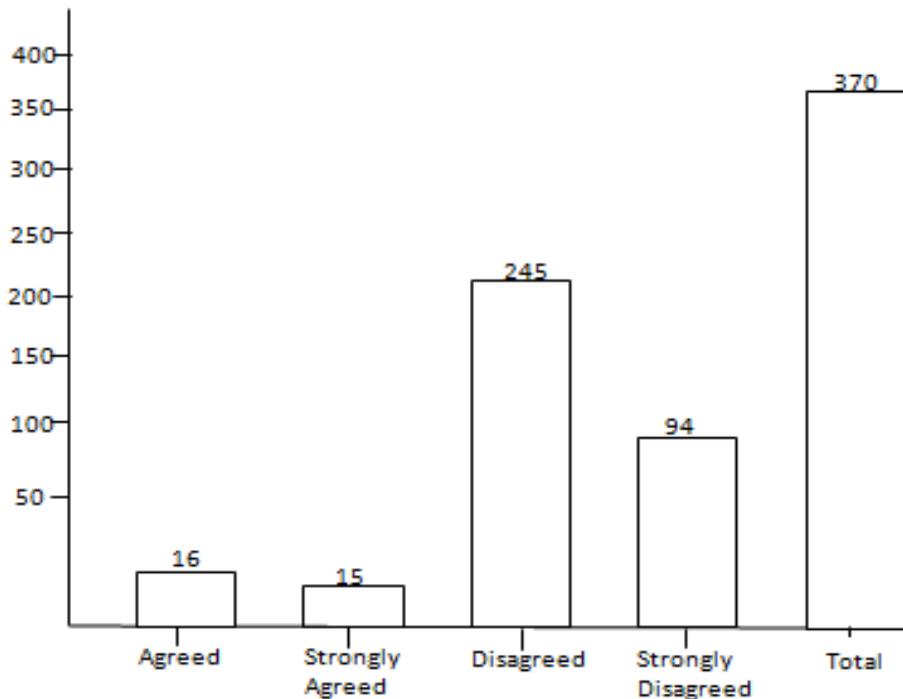
From the table 4.2 question one of this analysis, out of 370 questionnaires returned, 218 respondents representing 59% disagree holding their opinions that local government has not enjoyed an autonomous existence since its creation as the third tier of government after federal and state government. However one hundred and nineteen (119) respondents resenting 32.2% strongly disagree with the notion while 18 representing 4.90% and 15 representing 4.10% agree and strongly agree respectively. Meanwhile, the bar chart graph above stated that the level of responses which is incline with the table above marking the authenticity and accuracy of the work. Judging from the responses, 337 representing 91.22% affirmed their opinions that local government has not enjoyed an autonomous existence since its creations while 33 representing 9% said that there is an enjoyment of an autonomous existence since local government existence.

- Do you see several reforms programme introduced since the creation of the local government in 1976 as one that have helped it achieved the designed objectives as the grassroots developer and empire in Nigeria?

Table 1:3

	Government officials	Private sector	Civil society	F	%	Cf
Agree	5	4	7	16	4.32	16
Strongly Agree	2	3	10	15	4.10	31
Disagree	60	20	165	245	66.4	276
Strongly Disagree	23	23	48	94	25.41	3.70
Total	90	50	23.0	370	100	693

Source: Survey Research 2016



Source: Field Survey 2016.

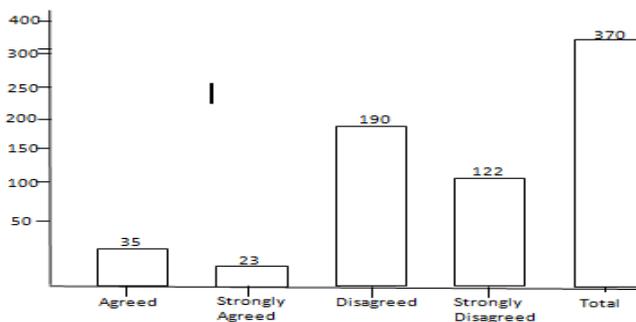
The analysis of the above table indicate that 245 respondents representing 66.2% disagreed while affirming their opinions that the reform programmes introduced since the creation of local government have not help it achieved the desired objectives as the grassroots developer and conspire in Nigeria. However 94 people representing 25.4% strongly disagreed while 16 representing 4.32% and 15 representing 4.10% agreed and strongly agreed respectively. These summarize that 339 respondents representing 9.6% said that the reforms have not helped local government achieved its objectives in Nigeria while 31 representing 8.4% said it has helped local government achieved its objectives as the grassroots developer and empire in Nigeria. The bar graph show the analysis and the result of the findings accordingly.

- Do you articulate the view that joint state-local government allocated formula improve Local government autonomous existence since its introduction?

Table 1:4

	Government officials	Private sector	Civil society	F	%	Cf
Agree	15	10	10	35	9.50	35
Strongly Agree	7	2	14	23	6.23	58
Disagree	40	30	120	190	51.40	248
Strongly Disagree	28	8	36	122	33.0	370
Total	90	50	230	370	100	711

Source: Survey Research 2016



Source: Field Survey 2016.

The table 4.4 question three (3) indicate that 190 respondents representing 51.4% disagreed while affirming their views that joint state-local governments allocation put together has affected the autonomy of the third tier of government from existing

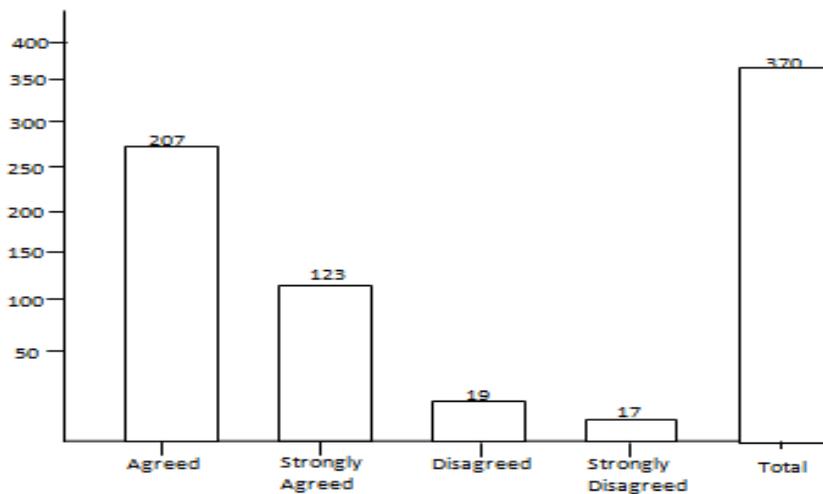
independently. Then 122 representing 33% strongly disagreed – while 35 representing 9.5% and 23 representing 6.2% agreed and strongly Agreed respectively. These acknowledged the fact that 312 respondents representing 84.4% rejected the notion of the state-local government’s joint allocation saying that it has affected the autonomy of the local government while 58 representing 15.7% accepted it respectively. The bar chart justified the analysis clearer to ensure comprehensive work done.

- Do you see corruption among public officials of the local government as a contributing factor affecting the rural development in Nigeria?

Table 4.5

	Government officials	Private sector	Civil society	F	%	Cf
Agree	30	25	152	207	55.95	207
Strongly Agree	40	17	70	127	34.32	334
Disagree	10	3	6	19	5.14	370
Strongly Disagree	10	5	2	17	4.60	370
Total	90	50	230	370	100	1264

Source: survey research 2016



Source: Field Survey 2016.

The table 4.5 indicates that 207 representing 56% agreed that corruption among the public servants has been a contributory factor affecting rural development in Nigeria. However, 127 representing 34.3% strongly agreed while 19 representing 5.14%, and 17 representing 4.60% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. At this point, 334 represented by 90.2% consented on the view while 36 represented by 9.7% rejected the notion accordingly.

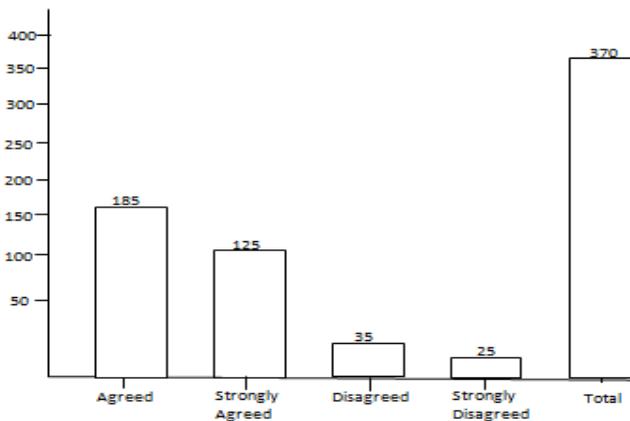
Therefore, the bar chart graph justified the analysis accurately for proper understanding.

- Do you see absolute independent of local government as a measure that enable them realize its objectives in Nigeria?

Table 4:6

	Government officials	Private sector	Civil society	F	%	Cf
Agree	35	20	130	185	50	185
Strongly Agree	40	13	72	125	33.8	310
Disagree	7	12	16	35	9.46	345
Strongly Disagree	8	5	12	25	6.80	370
Total	90	50	230	370	100	1210

Source: Survey Research 2016



Source: Field Survey 2016.

From the table above indicated that out of 370 respondents who responded on the questionnaire returned, 185 represented 50% of the respondents agreed that an absolute independence of local government is the panacea for it to realize its noble objectives. However, 125 respondents representing 33.8% strongly agreed while 35 representing 9.50% and 25 representing 6.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. These affirmed that 310 respondents representing 83.8% consented that independent status of local government is a solution for its objectives realization. While 60 respondents representing 16.3% rejected the notion accordingly. Therefore, the bar chart above explained the result in detail for upward comprehension.

Summary of the findings

Some of the articulated findings of this study include the followings:

1. Evidence from the research data analysis indicate that local government as the third tier of government has not been able to enjoy its autonomous existence since its creation due to undue interference from other tiers and structure of the government. This implies that allowing it operates on its own as an independent tier will endanger the realization of its objectives of creation.
2. Several reforms programme introduced towards facilitating the activities of local government have not helped matters let alone achieving the desired development within the grassroots level. This is because; the reform policy was not in favour of local government capacity building.

3. The evidence maintain that state-local government joint allocation created by federal government and the joint federal-state legislative decision on the nature of local government legislative arrangement cum existence have been the contributing factors affecting the existence in Nigeria.
4. Corruption among the public officials has been the ban of democratic leadership and realization and realization of rural development. This indicate that corruption which involve embezzlement, mismanagement, misappropriation, exploitation, extortion and squandamenian of public treasury has created a lot of setback in the performance of local government in Nigeria since its creation.
5. Therefore, suggestion indicates that the only way local government can enjoy its corporate existence is through the realization of its absolute independent status as a third tier of government in line with the federal and state counterparts.

Conclusion

Local government is the government at the grassroots level exercise through the representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within the defined areas. It is a government formed within the local level charged with the responsibility of meeting with the administrative, socio-economic and political needs of the people within their environs. The local government starts before the inception of British colonial masters in Nigeria. Then, in the British era and independent local government administration, before British inception, local government was based on kindred, village and community leadership. In the colonial era, local governments were classified according to county councils, district councils and divisional councils. The independent local government administration prior to 1976 was through the use of county councils, district councils, divisional councils, city councils and all purpose council. The 1976 local government reforms brought the fragmentation into a single tier structure and made up the third tier of government after the federal and the state governments. The local government was accorded an autonomous existence and specific revenue allocation. As a corporate body, it has legal authority to discharge its responsibilities within the ambit of law, but was later caged when it was merged with state government in the revenue allocation and fiscal commission through joint state-local government allocation and 10 percent involved according to 1999 constitution. The 2005 reform corrected the anomaly by ordering direct local government allocation from federal to local government without allowing state interference though, it was not yet implemented, thereby affecting the activities and administration of local government towards ensuring development of grassroots. The reform made an increase to local government allocation to 23 percent to enable it discharges its service effectively.

Recommendations

There should be a policy decision towards providing training at all levels for all categories local government officials. The reform initiated of training programmes for senior local government officials in three centers in the country namely: Ife, Zaria and Nsukka. The reforms that enhance training of the officials of local government council promote democracy, ensures administrative innovation, promote sustainable political institutions and ensure an effective distribution of socio-economic programmes in Nigeria. Therefore, the reform programme in the local government system if properly

implemented will ensure stability of the councils within the country thereby ensure the promotion of democracy and development of the grassroots level.

(1) Local government should be given an autonomous existence through ensuring adoption of direct revenue allocation from federal to local government.

(2) The federal government of Nigeria should make sure that state should not have any joint financial relation with local government in order to stop the manipulation of local government revenue allocation.

(3) The reform report of 2005 should be practically established to ensure an effective and efficient local government administration in Nigeria.

(4) The leadership of local government area should be harmonized to ensure transparency and accountability in the service.

(5) There is need to review constitution in order to place Local Government System in their rightful position as the third Tier of government with substantive responsibility which cannot be tampered upon by any of the Tiers.

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