

Infrastructural Development of Communities in Zaria: How well has the Local Government Performed?

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Abstract

Service delivery is one of the primary reasons for the existence of the local government, but for a number of reasons this all important function of the local government is being undermined. Chief among them is poor funding and issues of autonomy. This study's major objective is to examine the contributions of Zaria local government towards development of its community. Data was collected from the primary sources with the aid of questionnaires. The secondary data were gathered from the records of the local government: records regarding number of projects earmarked and those commissioned. Analysis of the data was conducted using descriptive statistical tools while the hypothesis was tested with the aid of Chi-square. The outcome of the test revealed that the intervention of Zaria Local Government on infrastructure has a significant effect on the development of its rural communities. The paper found out that paucity of funds is the major hindrance to the accelerated infrastructural development of communities (especially rural) by Zaria Local Government. The paper therefore recommends that Local Government financial autonomy is not negotiable, but must be monitored by the relevant authorities.

Key words: Infrastructure, Development, Local Government, Zaria, Service Delivery, Projects

INTRODUCTION

Local government is the third tier of government charged with the responsibility of providing services at the grassroots. Its functions include provision of market stalls; abattoir slab, construction and maintenance of primary health care facilities, bringing government closer to the people and stimulating participation of local people in the administration that affect their wellbeing. The Local government is expected to bring development to its rural communities through the provision of infrastructural facilities. World Development Report (2003) supports the devolution for making service delivery work for the poor. Recently, a number of scholarly books, articles and panels at conferences have dealt with the growing importance of local government as providers of local services, valuable partners in community development arena and a successful laboratory for local democracy (Sisk et al, 2001; Rondinelli, 2006; Forbrig 2011). At international level, local governments are improving their performance by playing a very significant role in providing better cooperation together with the people at local level concerning community development. It shows that policy makers are committed to a high level of community participation in community development. By doing so, this would work towards allowing local governments to retain strong state power (Jessop, 2004; Newman et al, 2004).

In spite of the noble functions of the local government, not much is said about Zaria local government's efforts at developing its community. Developmental efforts in Zaria local government are considered to be slow. The question therefore is to what extent has local government contributed to the development of its community in Zaria? It is with regards to the above that this study sets to explore the nexus between the contribution of local government and community development of Zaria. And to state clearly the strides made towards achieving the desired level of development in the local government with specific reference to the local government schedules.

In furtherance of the above, a hypothesis was formulated stating the likely outcome of our test, thus:

H₀: the contribution of Zaria Local Government has no significant effect on the development of its communities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Jessop (2004), Newman et al. (2004), at the international level, local governments are improving their performance by playing a very significant role in providing better cooperation together with the people at local level concerning community development. It shows that policy makers are committed to high level community participation for the development of the community. By doing so this would work towards allowing local governments to retain strong

state power. Also, local government in the communal sense means people's political instruments to participate in resource allocation, distribution and power acquisition. An in-depth analysis of this definition coincides with the broad objectives of local government which are political participation, efficient service delivery and resource mobilization. Political participation is concerned with the desire to involve local citizens in the management of local affairs. Efficient service delivery, which is closely knitted with the above factor, is to ensure that the basic needs of local citizens are met as speedily and as efficiently as possible. Resource mobilization is to provide a framework within which local resources, both human and material are effectively mobilized (Adamolekun, 1983).

Ezeani (2006) points out that "local government is generally seen as a veritable agent of development and grassroots participation in the democratic process". The reasons for the creation of local government include "local government particularly in developing countries is seen as an important mechanism for rural development. Ezeani (2006) reports that consequently, all over the world local governments have been assigned some functions under the law. This law includes making appropriate services and development activities responsive to local wishes and initiatives by devolving or delegating them to local representative bodies. To sensitize and mobilize the various communities in their areas of authority in order to get involved in the overall development of their areas" Ezeani (2006).

Ezeani (2004) supports the view of Adamolekun (2002) in discussing local government within the purview of decentralization. Decentralization is typologised into "decentralization" meaning administrative decentralization or field administration and "devolution" implying democratic decentralization in which there is substantial autonomy to sub-national units (i.e. local government) with powers and responsibilities to perform specific functions given under the law by the central government. Duru (2001) corroborates with Ezeani (2004) and Adamolekun (2002) on the above approach and conceptualization of local government as devolution. Duru and Adamolekun's views are right as local government in Nigeria has helped in stimulating local participation in government but they failed to explain that local government is created to be autonomous in terms of generation of internally revenue and allocation from the federal purse without State governments having access to total government account. The State government is to monitor how the allocation given to local government by federal government is spent. Supporting the above view Ezeani (2004) identifies the following features of devolution: local government must be granted autonomy and independence and be clearly recognized as a tier of government with little or no direct control by the central government. Local government must be recognized legally in terms of geographical boundaries and ability to raise sufficient revenue so as to carry out its functions.

Akpan in Effion (2001) describes creation of local governments “as the breaking down of the country into smaller units or localities for the purpose of administration in which the inhabitants of the different units or localities concerned play a direct and full part through their elected representatives who exercise powers and undertake functions under the general authority of the state or National Government. Akpan is right as local government is designed to bring governance to the grass root through the participation of elected representatives.

Okoli (2005) defines local government as a unit of government established by act of law to administer the functions of government and see to the welfare and interest of the local dwellers under the local government system. The Local government is expected to act within the act that established it and deliver political goods and services to the local dwellers. Green and Haines (2012) posit that community development as a planned effort to build assets that increase the capacity of respondents to improve their quality of life. According to Green et al, these assets may include several forms of capital. Capital such as physical, human, social, financial capital, job, skills and productivity. However, in the study above, the local government is seen as the catalyst for providing and increasing the welfare of the local people which subsequently lead to better quality of life. According to Cavaye, (2003) he observes that community development fundamentally involves a series of actions and decisions that improves the situation of a community, not just economically, but as a strong functioning community. Green, Haines and Cavaye were actually saying the same thing, as community development is geared towards delivering political goods and services to the people by increasing the financial, economic, social, environmental and cultural capacities. The Community development’s prior objective is to assist the communities in need of revitalization (Rebohlz, 2003).

Rubin (2000) also states that the organic theory of community development begins by premising the moral obligations to bring back the communities that the government and private sectors have abandoned. However, community development is different in its holistic approach to development, adopting strategies that go beyond economic growth. Rubin argues that, the development of communities has to do with revamping of an area by the community members which government fails to develop.

The goals of community development should be to improve people’s productivity and enable them to participate in their social, political and economic life into the future. This would give them more confidence in managing their own affairs and help to protect their environment. Indeed it affairs helps to protect their environment. Indeed it is morally binding on the local government managers to do everything possible to achieve the goals (Odiog 2003). The argument above is about increasing capacity of the people both in materials and substance so as to fit into the democratic setting that calls for greater participation of rural people in the government of their people.

Rural development is concerned with the improvement of the living rural standards of the low income people living in the rural area on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad based reorganization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this (Mabogunje, 1980).

Mabogunje argues that rural development brings about improvement in living standards of the subsistence population by mobilizing resources and allocating them to cause desirable development, mass participation and sustaining the process so as to acquire skills that will lead to capacity building which will result to optimal use of available resources that will bring rural development.

Rural development is concerned with the improvement and transformation of social, mental, economic, institutional and environmental conditions of the low income rural dwellers through the mobilization and rational utilization of their human, natural and institutional resources aimed at enhancing their capacities to cope with the daily tasks of life and the demands of contemporary times (Okoli & Onah, 2002). The transformation includes improvement in agricultural activities of the rural dwellers so as to engender economic success.

The challenges of Rural Development in Nigeria

The state of development in rural Nigeria is slow. The rural development in Nigeria local government areas is characterized by poor agricultural productivity, infrastructural decay and debt, population explosion, unemployment, etc. which has exacerbated the rural poverty and underdevelopment.

According to Ekpe, (2006), people live on the fringe of starvation, destitution and ignorance which undermine the immunity and natural resistance to diseases: such that epidemic continued to kill thousands every year. The local government in Nigeria is confronted with a lot of problems and this contributes to their failure in terms of capacity and ability to achieve their goals and objectives.

These challenges specifically include:

- (i) Excessive politicking at the local level
- (ii) Lack of qualified politicians
- (iii) Corruption, and
- (iv) Misplacement of priorities

Problems of Local Government in Nigeria

A local government is a statutory unit with its defined territory, administrative authority and power. Unfortunately, these symbols of autonomy are mere rhetoric in the Nigerian Local governments. According to Bello-Imam (1996), most countries of the world are apparently committed to establishing Local Governments irrespective of the fact that there is no consensus on whether they should exist or not. However the problem of local government is discussed with respect to their objectives.

The purposes for the creation of Local Government in relation to the local government reforms guidelines of 1976 include to; improve the participatory democracy, promote local freedom of action or local autonomy, ensure political integration, engender national unity and provide services for which they are most efficient vis-à-vis other levels of government. It is obvious from the literature that the local government in Nigeria has performed below expectation.

The poor performance of local government in promoting rural development and participatory democracy at a local level has been limited by many factors. According to Bello-Imam (1996) and Enemuo (1996), the main constraint to local government performance is inadequate finance. The inability to source for revenue internally coupled with insufficient allocation from the federal government constrained the local government from performing its duties effectively. Also, inadequate skilled and experienced personnel are other factors. Corroborating this view is Ameh (2003) who opines that local government lacks skilled manpower to facilitate a high rate of service delivery. Sorkaa (1999) also observes that, the era of party politics affects immensely the recruitment, discipline and condition of service of local government in Nigeria.

Another bottleneck is the undue interference from the state government. This undermines local government autonomy as the third tier of government. In Nigeria, the state governments have control of local government in such a way that, they could terminate the period of elected chairman and councilor before their tenure expires. Bello-Imam (1996) says that the intergovernmental relationship between local government and the higher levels of government witnessed suffocations, controls and sometimes conflicting directives. Corruption and lack of political will are other factors militating against the performance of the local government. Ameh (2003) asserts that, corruption at this level of government covers aspects like embezzlement of funds, falsification of receipts and account, inflation of figures on payment voucher, inflation of prices of goods and services rendered and unnecessary employment of staff. This view was correlated by Sorkaa who observes that corruption and unethical behavior have eaten deep into the fabric of the local government system in Nigeria. He further explains that most top functionaries of local government are not always

objective; administrative work is personalized, rules are not taken seriously and sometimes, even discarded completely (Sorkaa, 1992, 1999).

Another problem is inadequate support from the public which has made some people to agitate for its scrap. Denga (2003) observes that inadequate support for local government to perform their traditional role leads to their poor performance.

The Integrated Rural Development

Integrated Rural Development is a multi-dimensional strategy for improving the quality of life for rural people. It is based on the assumption that the socioeconomic framework of the traditional rural system is obsolete as it fails to transform the rural people and their areas. IRD strategies are designed to change this framework and promote structural changes (Chalton, 1981 cited in Bello 2005). This strategy is popular in many countries as it employs social, economic, institutional and technological changes to the development of human and natural resources so as to enhance the living standard of rural dwellers. Integrated Rural Development Strategy is a concept that is related to planning and executing of changes in the rural areas. It is assumed that production increases as social improvement are mutually reinforced. This connotes that the combination of national, technical, economic and institutional relationship will result to well-being and social integration of the rural people.

Patterns of Revenue utilization by Local Governments in Nigeria

Revenue in Nigeria local government is under two major pattern recurrent and capital expenditure. The recurrent expenditure takes care of the transient items of the budget while the capital expenditure takes care of items that have more permanent feature. According to Bello – Imam, 1996) the recurrent expenditure includes items like general administration, i.e. councilor's allowances, secretary's and treasurer's department and traditional council officers. Also included here are the salaries and allowances of all local government staff, overheads and other charges while the capital expenditure defines specific projects such as rural roads construction or rehabilitation, building and maintenance of health, education and other public utilities. Bello Imam (2001) opines that throughout the 2000s, the recurrent expenditure ranged from 65% to 77.4%, while the capital expenditure ranged between 21.2% and 33.3%. He further argued that, a surplus ranging from 0.38% to 8% of the entire local government in Nigeria.

This arrangement was poor as little percentage was set aside for capital project vis a vis current expenditure. This has a negative effect on rural development as local government constitutes the most veritable tool for reacting to the wishes and aspirations of the citizen and by implication transforming the rural populace. These objectives cannot be attained without adequate material,

human and most importantly, financial resources (Bello – Imam 1996/2011). The implication of this is that rural development is difficult to attain because of the fact that, local government areas are at the mercy of the Federal government to execute any project in the rural areas as a result of their over dependence on the Federal government. To corroborate this view Sorkaa (1999), argues that; Nigerian local governments depend almost completely on the revenue from the federation account. This explains why the local governments hardly embark on people centered projects. The Federal and State Governments from which they get most of their revenues determine in most cases the projects the revenues are spent on.

Zaria Local Government has a deficit budget as the available sources could not generate enough revenue to meet their recurrent and capital expenditure. Denga (2013) argues a similar view that salaries of most local government workers are owed for several months and there is little evidence of people oriented physical projects on the ground. Omenka (2001) and Adedeji (1997) are of the view that corruption, mismanagement and embezzlement of funds at this level of government has become a popular practice. The objective of local government has not been met on transforming rural areas except in a few cases.

METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts survey research design as one of the investigative techniques. Impliedly the primary sources of data generation (the questionnaire specifically) were used to generate the relevant information needed in the work. Data was also gathered from the secondary source, i.e. Local government reports and gazettes.

Population, sample size and Sampling Technique

The population of the study includes the people of Zaria local government area. The population of Zaria local government area from the 2006 census stood at 406,990. The target population for the study is the adult population and it is unknown. Zaria Local Government Area comprises 13 political and administrative wards which include Anguwan Juma, Anguwan Fatika, Dambo, Dutsen Abba, Gyellesu, Kaura, Kwarbai (A), Kwarbai (B), Kufena, Limanchi, Tudun wada, Tukur-Tukur and Wucicciri.

The sample size was drawn from the 13 wards of the local government. Three households from each ward and six district heads of the local government were selected. Therefore 45 questionnaires were distributed randomly in areas with larger settlements of literates and purposively in areas with smaller settlements. Out of this number, 31 questionnaires were returned.

Tool for Data Analysis

Chi-square tool of analysis was used to measure the level of disparity between observed and expected frequencies at five percent (5%) level of significance.

DATA PRESENTATION

This section presents the data from the local government’s (Zaia) reports as well as those gathered from the questionnaires administered.

The tables below show the Zaria local government monthly statutory allocation from Federation Accounts and socio-economic development activities from 2006 – 2011.

Year	Federal Statutory Allocation
2006	774,480,364
2007	977,971,794
2008	1,940,408,559
2009	726,326,277
2010	712,519,979
2011	1,599,308,860
Total	6,731,015,833

Source: Kaduna State Ministry for Local Government Affairs, 2016

Zaria Local Government: Infrastructural Facilities 2006 – 2011

S/N	Projects	Ward
1	Construction of one storey ultra-modern complex containing 100 shops	B/Dodo Kwarbai
2	Construction of one storey ultra-modern complex contain 50 shops	Kofar Doka Tudun wada
3	Construction of 100 shops	Danmagaji Kufena
4	Construction of market stalls and lock up stores	Wuciciri
5	Distribution of knitting, service and food processing machines for women for self-employment	General
6	Facilitating NDE/NAPEP Programmes	General
7	Construction of Home economics centre/skill acquisition centres	Anguwan Fatika
8	Construction of Cottage industry centre	Kufena

9	Distribution of 150 motorcycle for poverty alleviation	General
10	Distribution of relief materials	General
11	Distribution of subsidy on motorcycles (loans) to staff of local government	General
12	Distribution of office furniture to 3 development areas in Zaria local government area	General
13	Construction of market stalls at Amaru market	Kwarbai B
14	Construction of market stalls at Galma Market	Dambo
15	Construction of abattoir at Tudun wada market	Tudun wada
16	Construction of abattoir at Kusfa	Kaura
17	Construction of Market Staff	Dutsen Abba
18	Construction of New office extension 7 Nos offices each with toilet and furniture at work department	Local Council
19	Construction of Police outpost at Kofan Gayan low cost	Gyellesu
20	Construction of police outpost at Kofa Gayan	Limanchi
21	Construction of police outpost at Jushi	Kwarbai A
22	Construction of police outpost at Dambo	Dambo
23	Construction of police outpost at Wucicciri	Dambo
24	Supply of 4000 Nos composite desk and chairs at various primary schools within the local government	General
25	Construction of general stand at Baban Dodo T/Stadium	Kwarbai A

26	Provision of materials to Women Centre Lemu	Kwarbai A
27	Sponsoring of sporting and cultural activities	General
28	Upgrading of Nursing and control garden at massai/Kan Idi	Tukur-Tukur
29	Upgrading of Nursing and Control Garden at old Water Works	Gyellesu
30	Distribution of subsidy rate and loan to agriculture cooperative societies	General
31	Distribution of fertilizer at a subsidized rate	General
32	Distribution of materials to victims of Damagaji market fire disaster on 18 th April, 2006	Kuefena
33	Construction of chalk and paint factory at Anguwan Kahu	Kwarbai
34	Provisions of buses for mass transit	General
35	Free of charge Ramadan feeding	General
36	Provisions of materials to community development associations	General
37	Purchase of WAEC, NECO and JAMB to various students	General

Source: Zaria Local Government Works Transport Housing and Survey Department 2016.

Zaria Local Government: Infrastructural Facilities 2006 – 2011

S/N	Projects	Ward
1	Aluminum conductors for rehabilitation of H.T lives at Lemu, Babban Dodo, Kanfage	Kwarbai A
2	Rehabilitation of L.T lives at Alfa darai, Nagoyi Kofar Kibo, Kofar Doka	Kofar Doka Tudun wada
3	Relocation of H.T lives at Babban Dodo from overhead to underground	Kwarbai A

4	Rural electrification at bogan, Rafinfa, Ganji, Bogarin Sarki and Anguwan Rafufa	Wucicciri
5	4 No. 500 KVA transformers at Karauka, Kakaki and Anguwan Liman, Anguwan Nufawa	Kaura Kwaibai
6	Distribution of 500/300 KVA transformers	General
7	Rural electrification at Tudun kusa	Wucicciri
8	Rural electrification at Kufena	Kufena
9	Rural electrification at Dutsen Abba	Dutsen Abba
10	Rural electrification at Dambo	Dambo
11	Rural electrification at Gabari	Kufena
12	Electrification project to Kasuwa Damagaji	Kufena

S/N	Water Supply Projects	Ward
1	Supply of diesel to Zaria water works to complement the energy requirement for purchasing of water	General
2	Construction of 120 concrete wall at various locations Deeping of 60 open walls	General
3	Rehabilitation of 96 bore holes at different location	General
4	Provision of No. 4 Mobile tanks to supply water under water provisions scheme	General
5	Redeeming of opening wells across the local government	General
6	Provision heavy water tank (GP) to various locations to the local government	General

S/N	Primary Health Care Project	Ward
1	Renovation of project at maternity clinic at Layin Sarki	Kwarbai
2	Renovation of project at maternity clinic at Babban Dodo	Kaura
3	Renovation of project at health care centre at Rimin	Kaura
4	Completion of community health clinic at Kafin Mardanni	Dutsen Abba
5	Supply of vaccine, drugs, chemicals etc.	General
6	Purchase of hospital equipment for local government clinic	General
7	Rehabilitation of Central Medical Store at Durumi	Kwarbai
8	Building of maternity and clinic at Dandutse	Tudun Wada
9	Building of Maternity and clinic at Gonan Ganye	Tukur/Tukur
10	Building of maternity and clinic at Anguwa Fatika	Anguwa Fatika
11	Renovation of maternity clinic at Dakace	Dambo
12	Construction of delivery suit at Anguwan Dankali	Kufena
13	Construction of PHC Clinic at Anguwan Magajiya	Kwarbai A
14	Clearing of heavy garbage at shafi road	Tudun wada
15	Open drainage clearance at Babban Dodo to Agoro	General
16	Provisions of Buses for monthly sanitation exercise	General
17	Provisions of health assistance to victims	General
18	Sponsoring of casual and volunteers health personnel	General

S/N	Work Projects	Ward
1	Construction and tarring of Bello Kagarko road to link Tudun Wada to Magume ward	Tudun wada Tukur/Tukur
2	Construction of box culvert at pan madauchi linking Amaru market to Kaura	Kaura Kwarbai
3	Construction of box culvert at Banzazzau linking to Anguwan Makama Dodo	Kwarbai
4	Construction of permanent drainage at Gidan Lamido, Dikko Kofar Gidan Isa Bagobiri	Kwarbai
5	Construction of permanent drainage at Yankaji	Tudun Wada
6	Construction of permanent drainage at Tudun wada by Kongo institute to Abubakar Gumi College of higher Islamic studies.	Tudun Wada
7	Construction of permanent drainage from Kofan Gidan Kaji to Kofar gidan Tafida at kaura	Kaura
8	Construction of permanent drainage at Madaki road	Anguwan Juma
9	Construction of box culvert at Marmara linking to Anguwan Fatika	Anguwan Juma
10	Construction of surface dressing road to Rimin Kwakwa-Danwanki Road	Kwarbai A
11	Construction of surface dressing of road and drainage 100m at Panwanki to Kofan Jatau	Anguwan Fatika
12	Construction of earth road at Magajiya to Nagoyi	Kwarbai A Gyellesu
13	Construction of earth road at Gubuci	Wucicciri
14	Construction of road surface dressing of Tukur Tukur	Tukur-Tukur
15	Construction of one block of two classrooms in general almost all the primary schools in the local government area	General

Source: Zaria Local Government Works Transport Housing and Survey Department 2016.

**Analysis of Data
 Frequency Table**

Local Govt and Executed Rural Development Project

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	11	35.5	35.5	35.5
	D	4	12.9	12.9	48.4
	U	12	38.7	38.7	87.1
	A	3	9.7	9.7	96.8
	SA	1	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

The Project executed in my Ward is well done

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	5	16.1	16.1	16.1
	D	6	19.4	19.4	35.5
	U	12	38.7	38.7	74.2
	A	5	16.1	16.1	90.3
	SA	3	9.7	9.7	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Local Govt. Council provided Electrification, Roads, Culvert in my Ward

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	4	12.9	12.9	12.9
	D	6	19.4	19.4	32.3
	U	14	45.2	45.2	77.4
	A	4	12.9	12.9	90.3
	SA	3	9.7	9.7	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

the Projects executed by Local Govt Council meets your needs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	4	12.9	12.9	12.9
	D	9	29.0	29.0	41.9
	U	9	29.0	29.0	71.0
	A	5	16.1	16.1	87.1
	SA	4	12.9	12.9	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Local Govt. council consulted the members of the Community about their Needs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	1	3.2	3.2	3.2
	D	7	22.6	22.6	25.8
	U	11	35.5	35.5	61.3
	A	7	22.6	22.6	83.9
	SA	5	16.1	16.1	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Local Govt. executed healthcare facility in your ward

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	4	12.9	12.9	12.9
	D	3	9.7	9.7	22.6
	U	12	38.7	38.7	61.3
	A	7	22.6	22.6	83.9
	SA	5	16.1	16.1	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	0

Local Govt. organizes vocational training such as sowing etc

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	2	6.5	6.5	6.5
	D	11	35.5	35.5	41.9
		12	38.7	38.7	80.6
		5	16.1	16.1	96.8
		1	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

The performance of community and cooperative development association

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	1	3.2	3.2	3.2
	D	8	25.8	25.8	29.0
	U	15	48.4	48.4	77.4
	A	6	19.4	19.4	96.8
	SA	1	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Local Govt intervention mechanism helps in installing the infrastructural facilities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	5	16.1	16.1	16.1
	D	5	16.1	16.1	32.3
	U	6	19.4	19.4	51.6
	A	7	22.6	22.6	74.2
	SA	8	25.8	25.8	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Crosstabs

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid			Missing		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Local Govt and Executed Rural Development Project * Local Govt executed healthcare facility in your ward	31	100.0%	0	.0%	31	100.0%

Local Govt and Executed Rural Development Project * Local Govt executed healthcare facility in your ward Crosstabulation

Count

		Local Govt executed healthcare facility			
		SD	D	U	
Local Govt and Executed Rural Development Project	SD	4	3	4	
	D	0	0	4	
	U	0	0	4	
	A	0	0	0	
	SA		0	0	0
Total		4	3	12	

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	49.663(a)	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	46.964	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	21.342	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	31		

25 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .10.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The assumption under the test procedure is that when the P-value is less than the level of Alpha, the Null hypothesis is invalidated else, the study will fail to reject the null hypothesis if the P-value is greater than the level of Alpha. However, our level of Alpha is 0.05 and since the level of Alpha is greater than the P- value of 0.000, then we reject the Null hypothesis that says that the contribution of Zaria Local Government has no significant effect on the development of its communities. From the analysis made, the contribution of Zaria Local Government has a significant effect on the development of its communities.

The study found out that, in spite of the paucity of funds in the form of poorly generated IGR and insufficient federal allocations, Zaria Local Government still contributed to the development of its communities. The study also found out that some of the projects executed by Zaria Local Government did not get the consent of the local people, hence their unacceptability. This finding is in line with view of Ameh (2003). The study also found out that some projects were badly executed due to poor logistics and operational vehicles to monitor the projects. This view is underpinned by Sorkaa (1992; 1999).

CONCLUSION

It is intriguing to know that Local Government is not only a tier of Government but a sine qua non to the development of Rural Areas. In view of this, the local government must be seen as the first tier of government. Its closeness to the local people gives it that pride of place. Hence the constitution should be reviewed to reflect the prime position it occupies in the scheme of things. This is the only way to make the Local Government more responsible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having seen the importance of Zaria Local Government Authority towards the development of its local communities, the paper therefore recommends that Fourth Schedule of Section 6(a) and (b) of 1999 Constitution should be reviewed so that adequate funds could be made available to Zaria Local Government Authority by the Federal Government without passing through the State. This will enable the Local Government to deliver its mandate effectively and efficiently to the grassroots. In order to avoid misappropriation of funds by Local Government, control mechanism should be put in place to monitor its spending via the Ministry of Local Government

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