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THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
A CASE STUDY OF UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU
STATE, NIGERIA, 2007-2012

BY

ODO NOBLE FIMBER

PG/M.SC/12/ 61444

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA, IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER
OF SCIENCE DEGREE (M.SC) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH, 2014
This project has been supervised and approved for the Department of Political Science, Faculty of the Social Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in partial fulfillment to the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M. Sc) in Political Science, with emphasis on public Administration

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External Examiner
DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for His love and blessing upon my life.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In a special way, I humbly express my profound gratitude to the Almighty God, the creator of the whole universe who out of His infinite mercy and love guided, protected and enabled me to get to this far. Daddy! May your name alone be glorified.

With inexpressible joy and happiness, I also appreciate the effort of my amiable supervisor, Dr. C.A.C. Umezurike for his immeasurable assistance and academic encouragement throughout my journey to this Promised Land. Sir, you are good!

In addition, my appreciation is equally extended to the Head of Department, Professor Jonah Onuoha for his transformation agenda in political science department which induced severally for the production of this work.

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Again, I sincerely acknowledge the love, care, and noble roles of my mother, Mrs. Virginia Odo. Both in need and deed, morally and financially you did not let me down. I pray that God will give you health to enjoy the fruit of your labour. For my brothers; Anthony, Theophilus, Osita, Insp. Okpe, Dr. Charles, Abah Johnson, Enuwa, Ifesinachi and my sisters; Chinasa, Grace and Gloria. I appreciate you all for your love and kindness so far in my life till this stage.

Lastly, I say big thanks to all my collegues, friends and well-wishers, especially Nwuhuo Robinson, Sam Pete, Chikwado, Engr. Anthony, Kenneth Agbo, Comrade
Omada, Sir George Amoke, Brendan, Nnaya Nwodo, Drake, Amarachi and those whose names are not mentioned for the all round assistance and encouragement you gave me throughout the production of this work. I pray that God will continue to protect and guide us till we get to the next level of our heart desires. God bless you all!

Odo, N. F.

March, 2014
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated The Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A Case study of Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, 2007-2012. Local Government as the third tier of government is established by law to exist at the grassroots level for efficient and effective service delivery in order to enhance rural development at all times. To investigate these roles, Elite theory was utilized as the theoretical framework. Hence, qualitative method was adopted as the method of data collection due to the fact that it cannot be easily or objectively amenable to empirical measurement and verifications. In the same vein, the study argues that the previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities for the people; popular disempowerment undermined the development of education; and the available economic sources contributed inadequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012. And lastly, it recommends that the local government administration should try to provide adequate social welfare for the people; promote popular empowerment and not disempowerment for the development of education; and ensure prudent utilization of the available economic sources to enhance more sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government.
CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nigeria like many other developing countries is faced with development problems, including the organization of men and material resources to achieve specific organizational objectives. It is pertinent to note that local government in Nigeria is traceable to the formative period of larger-scale kingdom and powerful empires in the country before the colonial era brought in the district councils as the first attempt to improve the hitherto traditional system (Orewa and Adewumi, 1992). It was further strengthened by the Native courts as mere administrative gag-wires to exploit the local resources of the rural people for the central government. During the formative period, there were smaller districts, villages and wards that were subject to the kingdoms and emirate governments as exemplified in such places as Oyo, Borno empires and Sokoto caliphates. The portfolio councilor system under the traditional title holders also was part of the advancement into local government system under the Native Authority Law, 1954 (Eke, 2009). However, the political restructuring again in Nigeria started with the creation of 12 states in 1967, which led to 36 states in the federation today with 774 local governments created. By this, the administrative objective of creating a local government area is aimed at enhancing the performance of state functions like provision of public services and rural development, in which its importance has led to the Nigerian governments various attempts to reorganize schemes with the framework and procedure to convert local governments into a veritable agent of the central government. Hence, the
central government cannot attend to the best interest of people without efficient and effective government at the grassroots levels.

By rural development, we mean a process of bringing development through positive changes with regard to articulating, initiating and actualizing improvement and increase in scope and intensity of social, economic and political life of rural people by the provision and maintenance of social services such as education, health, good water supply, housing and roads etc. The necessity of rural development is tied to the dense population of the rural areas as the nuclei of societies to curb the effects of rural-urban migration and state of poverty-induced criminality perpetuated by anomie in the cities.

It is against this background that Yahaya (1979:20) argues that:

it is there at the grassroots that the great mass of the people are; it is there that most indigenous resources of men and land are under-used; there that nutrition can be tackled; there that success would do most to slow the migration to major cities---finally, it is there that some redress of gross inequities in income distribution can be started.

To meet these objectives, various laws were put in place since 1750s such as the Native Authority law of 1954 in the Northern Region; the Local Government Law of 1955 in the Eastern Region; and the Local Government Law of 1957 in the Western Region. These laws were inadequate because they ignored most, the need for rural development as they empowered concentrated development in the urban areas (Okafor, 1988).

In addition, Orewa and Adewummin (1992) observe that the Buhari-Idiagbon military administration intervened and set up a 21 man Dasuki committee on Local Government on 29th May, 1984 with seven major terms of reference among which the
first and most important was to recommend the most suitable mode of managing the local Government within the context of the then military set up. While under Ibrahim Babangida’s military administration, the political Bureau recommended Local Government as a strategic and viable instrument for rural transformation and for the delivery of social services to the people. The above did not include the embodiment of Local Government Reforms in 1976 by Obasanjo’s regime and when put together entails that Local Government system became imperative to address the neglect of the rural areas caused by urban biased development plans of modern African leaders. Today, not much can be said to have been done to impact significantly to rural development in most Nigerian societies. Empirical evidence shows on the rate of poverty, unemployment among the rural people with poor education facilities, deplorable road network, absence of electricity, poor health facilities and so on prevalence in the rural areas.

It is from the above obvious reasons that the study critically investigated The Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A Case Study of Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, 2007-2012

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The issue of rural development has been creating a lot of concern in most third world countries including Nigeria. There has been growing recognition of the importance of rural development as an instrument of changing the poor condition of the rural dwellers, and at large, primitive societies to modernity. This is because of the glaring gap between the rural and urban areas in terms of infrastructure, resource distribution, human resources development and employment which has made rural development imperative
This imbalance has subjected the rural dwellers to more precarious economic hardship. It has induced rural-urban migration, thereby increasing high rate of unemployment in the urban areas, while simultaneously depriving the rural areas of their agricultural workforce. This situation does not seem to improve remarkably in Nigeria with the operation of nascent democracy. For instance, “about 80 percent of the entire population reside in rural areas” (Ogbazi, 1998:20). These rural dwellers are mainly peasant farmers who find it difficult to feed and provide most basic necessities of livelihood to their immediate families. The level of poverty among rural dwellers in Nigeria is an eloquent testimony to the need for development of the rural environments. This situation was incident to identified problems which include infrastructure, peasant and subsistence agriculture, poor roads network, absence of electricity, poor healthcare delivery and drinking water, low commercial activities, lack of food preservation facilities and erosion menace (Anambra State government, in Okey, 2009).

The recognition of the above problems instigated the Federal Military Governments in 1976 to take a bold initiative to reform the local government system in Nigeria. In the words of Okafor (1994) the provision of the unified system of local government which operate throughout the country include the establishment of local governments of comparable size with identical statutory powers and equal access to statutory funding from the higher tiers of government. Meanwhile, the essence of the reforms was to bring about stable increase in rural productivity and income, diversification of rural economy and general enhancement of the quality of life in the areas. In the same vein, the Nigerian constitution of 1999 provides that every local government in the country shall participate in the economic planning and development of
its own area of jurisdiction. And to strengthen this great task bestowed on the local
governments, according to Okey (2009) General Babangida reminded Nigerians that
local governments were not created to pay salaries only, but to ensure collective
participation in governance, motivate physical and economic development, create the
conditions for development opportunities and provide social services which can improve
the well being of the rural people (Oyovbaire and Olagunju, 1998).

It is unarguable that the ability of any local government to accomplish such
expected tasks will depend on the availability of funds. That is to say, the survival and
effectiveness of this grassroots tier, depends on its financial viability. Hence, Adedeji
(1969) asserts that the success or failure of any local government will depend on the
finances available to it. He maintains that finance represents the point at which the
vicious cycle may be broken or possibly reversed.

Presently, it is unfortunate to observe that most local governments with long
years of existence do not have good feeder roads while pipe borne water is grossly
inadequate. The available ones were either provided through self help efforts of the rural
communities or by non-governmental organizations. In the health sector, the management
of the existing health centres built by the state government is so poor that patients are
rarely seen in these places, while the condition of the few health posts built by the local
government councils are mere illusions of reality. In all these, Udenu Local Government
is not exempted from the ugly trend of poor rural development among others in Nigeria.

Drawing from the above circumstances, it becomes imperative to pose the
questions below as guide to this study:
- Did previous administrations fail to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012?
- Did popular disempowerment undermine the development of education in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012?
- Did the available economic sources contribute adequately for the sustenance of the people living in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012?

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of this study was to investigate local government and rural development in Nigeria: A study of Udenu local government area, 2007-2012. Accordingly, the specific objectives were to:

- ascertain whether previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-201;
- determine whether popular disempowerment undermined the development of education in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012;
- and lastly, establish whether the available economic sources contributed adequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, it investigated and exposed the crucial Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A Case Study of Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, 2007-2012. The study can be used to settle the problems of rural development anywhere in the world. Mostly, the third world countries are in dire needs for socio-economic and political
development for centuries and have not succeeded for its realization. Hence, poverty, underdevelopment, poor infrastructure and illiteracy among the rural people remain the subjects of discussion among the continents till date. Hopefully, this study will enable those countries with rural developmental bottlenecks to see the better way through which their local government systems can be organized to ensure adequate rural developments.

Again, Nigerians and other Africans scattered all over the continents and beyond will see this work as a base of acquiring the pre-requisite knowledge expected from them for organizing and serving their countries in general; and component units/local governments in particular, whose leadership they will soon come home to assume after the pursuit of their high educations.

More so, it will ginger discussions and exchange of ideas between Nigerians and their colleagues in the civilized world of Europe and America, especially on the previous administrations in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State which failed to provide adequate social amenities for the people, 2007-2012. Such discussion will lead to a better solution to the problems behind administrations of local government in order to enhance adequate rural development anywhere in the world; how popular disempowerment would affect development of education; and how the available economic sources would contribute adequately for the sustenance of people’s living in the rural areas.

Practically, this work will be of immense benefits to scholars of politics and public administration, patriots, statesmen, policy makers and for the common man who may want to carry out research and have knowledge update about local governments and rural development in Nigeria, particularly in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State.
1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

In a developing country like Nigeria, local government has been adopted as the major instrument for the acceleration and sustenance of rural development. This is because the importance of local government to rural and national development cannot be overemphasized. Local government as constituted in 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is created as a viable instrument for rural development and for the delivery of social services to the people. It is obvious that the local government is strategically placed to fulfill these functions because of its proximity to the rural people, which enables it to easily articulate and aggregate the demands of the people. Hence, local government as the third tier of government is generally seen as the government at the grassroots specifically for rural development.

According to the United Nations Office for Public Administration (1976) cited in Ezeani (2004:25) “local government, as a political sub-division of a nation or (in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exert labour for prescribed purposes”. Thus, the point to be made here is that local government by law sees for the control of local affairs including revenue generation for its maintenance.

For Orewa and Adewumi (1992), local government is a system of local communities and towns which are organized to maintain law and order; provide some limited range of social services and co-operation of the inhabitants in joint endeavours towards the improvements of their conditions of living. Implicit in the above contribution is that local government is established for the primary role of providing social services and orderliness for the rural people. Going further, they assert that local government
provides the community with a formal organizational framework which enables them to conduct their affairs effectively and regulates the actions of their members for the general public.

In his own contributions, Akinyele (1988) cited in Obiajulu & Obi (2004) deposit that local government is a political submission of a nation which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs. This implies that local government does not only establish by law but for a purpose, and that is for the conduct of local/rural affairs targeted for rural development in general. Therefore, the above assertion gained the support of Opoke (2009) when he argues that local government is a system of political sub-division of a modern state which is constituted by law with a given territory and population for administrative purpose. Thus, the emphasis is on the power and conduct of local affairs for rural development as well.

Again, Agbo (2005) maintains that local government is the governments at the local level exercised through democratically elected representative council which while subject to the general control of the central government are given autonomy and specific power within defined areas which they can exercise without control by the higher authority. The point here is that local administrators/leaders should be the people’s choice operating within the ambits of the law without undue interference from the central government.

Furthermore, Adebayo (2010) states that local government is a theoretical abstraction referring to a system of local authority whose identifying features are lack of sovereignty being a creation of the central geographical based giving power as well as the institutional structure necessary for achieving its purpose. It means that governing at the
local level is exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific power within defined areas. This power should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial power to initiate and direct the provision of service and to determine and implement project as to complement the activities of the state and federal in their areas and to ensure through devaluation of functions to these councils.

In addition, Victor (2011) observes that local government, at least in principle, deals with grassroots politics (keeping law and order, basic sanitation, constructing and maintaining local roads, supplying water, administering local school, providing skill training and employment for residents etc. This means that local government sees for popular empowerment of the rural dwellers through provision of social amenities and direct human development.

Also, the International Union of Local Authority (ULA), the world wide association of local government during its 27th World Congress (1985) cited in Bamidele (2011), sees local government as that level of government with constitutionally defined rights and duties to regulate and manage public affairs which are also constitutionally defined for the exclusive interest of the local population. Thus, it means that these rights and duties shall be exercised by individuals that are freely elected on periodical basis by equal universal suffrage, while its chief executive shall be so elected or appointed with the full participation of the elected body.


Government at the local level exercised through representative council established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These
powers should give the councils substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services, and to determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities as of the state and federal government in their areas, as to ensure through active participation of the people and their traditional institutions that local initiatives and response to local needs are maximized.

The above contribution is pointing to the powers of local government and its roles for rural development.

In terms of revenue generation, “Nigeria is among the very few countries in the world where local governments are legally and constitutionally allocated a share of the total nationally derived revenue” (Ezeani, 2004:100). This implicitly reveals that local governments in Nigeria among other sources generate their revenues from the national government through monthly allocations and other special grants for the sole purpose of rural development.

Accordingly:
Some other ways the local government can enhance economic development in the rural areas include: market development, implementation of national economic policies, etc. It also involves improving thermal share of national resources committed to physical and social infrastructure. Increased economic opportunities can be provided through the assistance of the local government in form of credit, land and other productive capital for both agriculture and non-agricultural production (Onyishi 20000:101).

Thus, this aptly captures almost the roles of local government on revenue generation alone and not for its efficient utilization to enhance rural development.

In the words of Ugwu (2004:139): Local government plays important role in constructing and maintaining rural roads. In local governments there is the works department responsible for the maintenance of local roads. They also build bridges to link
communities to the local headquarters. Admittedly, the role of local government is highlighted on roads network here. He adds that local government can also facilitate the development of rural areas by embarking on mass transit programme.

Though, he emphasizes on the communication needs by the rural people in which the local government sees through, by making sure that telephone services are made available to the rural areas for easy dissemination of information and messages. He equally points to the provision of essential amenities, industrialization, housing estates, health facilities and education for the rural people.

However, Njoku cited in Ugwu (2004) argues that Agricultural sector is another area that the local government can make an impact:

Local government can be made to be more active in the implementation of agricultural policies. For instance, to educate and help the local farmers understand the mechanisms and appreciate the modern techniques of production through the use of quick maturing high yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers, mechanization of agricultural operation and crop protection measures like the use of pesticides (Njoku (1999) cited in Ugwu 2004:140).

In terms of rural development generally: Local governments have been encouraging and supporting town unions and voluntary agencies to participate in community efforts in their areas of jurisdiction. This is because the local governments appreciate that they cannot do it alone and do not have the commensurate resources to embark on full scale community development, while these agencies have the capacity to engender community development. Thus, the governments do by supporting community development projects by the provision of grants in aid, technical expertise and necessary building and construction materials and machinery (Ofuebe, 1996: 48)
Accordingly, Victor (2011) sees rural or community development as the process or effort of building communities at the local level with emphasis on building the economy, forging and strengthening social ties, and developing the non-profit sector. Therefore, community or rural development according to him, programs are aimed at improving the quality of life of the people in the community.

Notably, the importance of meaningful positive roles of local government in rural development process cannot be over emphasized. This has been amplified by Maddick when he states that:

To achieve social change and general economic growth requires a spreading efforts so that local communities and individuals can participate to bring under ideal conditions, energy, enthusiasm and most important of all local development activities---local authorities provide the opportunity for local people to participate in local decision and local schemes within the general national policies, and to act above all, as local centres of initiative and activity conducive, to development (Maddick, 1993:226).

Drawing from the above, it is pertinent to state that rural development through the instrumentality of the local government is essential for a sustained development process at the rural areas.

Rural development, therefore, can be seen as a process or means to bringing development through positive changes with regard to initiating and actualizing improvement and increase in scope and intensity of social, economic and political life of rural people by the provision and maintenance of social services such as education, health, good water supply, housing and roads (Okafor, 1988). That is to say, the necessity of rural development is tied to the dense population of the rural areas as the nuclei of societies; to curb the effects of rural-urban migration and state of poverty-induced
criminality perpetuated by anomie in the cities. For Williams (1979: xviii) on his own contributions, sees rural development as:

The generation of new employment, more equitable access to arable land, equitable distribution of incomes, widespread improvement in health, nutrition, and housing, maintenance of law and order, creation of incentives and opportunities for saving credits and investments.

To be more connected, Yahaya (1979:20) underscores the above point for grassroots development when he states that:

It is there at the grassroots that the great mass of the people are; it is there that most indigenous resources of men and land are under-used; there that nutrition can be tackled; there that success would do most to slow the migration to major cities-----finally, it is there that some redress of gross inequalities in income distribution can be started.

This stands to mean that a sound rural development through the instrumentality of local government will enhance a balanced national economic development. According to Rogers and Whiting (1976:3) “rural development refers to not only providing jobs and increased incomes to rural people but also improving the quality of rural living through increased and improved community services”.

In the words of Olayinde et al (1979:246):

Rural development is a process whereby concerted efforts are made in order to facilitate significant increases in rural resource productivity with the overall objectives of enhancing rural incomes and increasing employment opportunities in rural communalities.

For World Bank (1973) rural development is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people—the rural poor. It involves extending the benefit of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. These groups include small-scale farmers, tenants, the landless women etc. Here,
rural development is seen as the total improvement of the living standard of the low-income population in rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. Hence, it re-affirms the contributions of Orewa & Adewumi (1977) when they argue that rural development is a programme which has objectives and strategy aims at transforming the citizens in the rural areas from victims of poverty, ignorance and disease into a contended human being, able to earn an income capable of sustaining a reasonable standard of living for himself and his family.

According to Adelemo (1989) the basic objectives of rural development is to organize, develop and utilize available resources (both human and material) in such a manner that the inhabitants of rural areas have the opportunity to meet at least their basic need (food, shelter, clothing) including the provisions for education and health without despoiling or degrading the environment. Thus, the importance of rural development is emphasized as the only way that welfare of majority of the people can be attained. As such, rural development enthroned by the local government is seen as very essential because majority of the people live in the rural areas.

More interestingly, Adamu (1994) observes that rural development entails modernizing and improving the conditions of rural life through programmes, policies, and study of the institutional, social legal and organizational structures and likes of the rural people. This is in form of provision of social services for the basic needs such as health, education, water supply, road network and power supply etc with the belief that these services will boost welfares and living standards of people in the rural areas.
However, the above contributions were the mixed reactions on the roles of local government in rural development in general, and the essence of rural developments in particular for the rural people and the nation at large.

In Nigeria, according to Ugwu (2000) the main features of the rural areas are: depression, degradation, poverty, and deprivation. He maintains that in most rural areas in Nigeria, like in other rural setting in the developing nations, basic infrastructure, where they exist at all, are too inadequate for any meaningful development.


Rural dwellers often depend on shallow wells and untreated water. The villagers, most of whom are farmers, work on the land from sunrise to sunset only to produce food for the uncontrollably teeming city population. In and around the village, one readily comes across children with distended tummies and spindly legs who are found wanting of a complete diet, formal education, and a technical sense of belonging. Most rural communities in Nigeria have built schools through self help but most of the schools lack necessary academic aids. Qualified teachers refuse to work in most of them because of the death of facilities.

This contribution tries to portray the pitiable picture of underdevelopment, poverty and outright negligence surrounding most rural areas in the community.

For the relevance of rural development in Nigeria, Ugwu (2000) identifies reduction in the level of rural poverty and rural unemployment, improving the quality of life by provision of quality portable water, electricity and other basic amenities which are the proper roles of local governments. The reason is that the functions which are constitutionally assigned to local government in Nigeria focus on rural communities (Chike, 1998). These functions, according to Nnabuko (1998) were itemized under the following three headings: the protection roles, convenience roles and welfare roles.
According to the Nigerian constitution (1999:151) and Chima (1991:26) these concurrent roles include the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education institutions, the development of agricultural and natural resources other than exploitation of minerals, provision and maintenance of health services and others.

In the words of Nzelibe (1991:206) “local government should ensure that these basic facilities and services are provided adequately for the benefit of the local communities, and equally involves the inhabitant in the management of these facilities”. But the local government cannot succeed without strong financial base, and that is why Nzelibe states clearly that they (local governments) need, substantial, stable and predictable finance from both federal and state governments, if they are to carry out these functions effectively and efficiently.

Drawing from the foregoing, we can surely conclude that all the scholars in their contributions have almost the same ideas about what the local government is and what it is supposed to achieve as its roles in rural development in Nigeria.

**GAPS IN THE LITERATURE**

After critical analyses of the available literature, the researcher identified the following gaps below:

- There is non-inclusion on how the previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012

- Secondly, there is inadequate highlight on how popular disempowerment undermined the development of education in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012
And lastly, there is non-inclusion on how the available economic sources contributed adequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government Area, 2007-2012

1.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Elite theory is utilized as the theoretical framework of this study. The major proponents of the theory include: Wilfredo Pareto, Gaetano Mosca and Robert Michel among others. Their view is that society is diametrically divided into two and opposed to each other. At the opposing sides, are the elite that governs and the group that is governed and, therefore, public policy represents preferences and values of the government of political elites. Dye argued that the superimposition of elite preferences and choice upon the relatively atomized and fragmented people is because the “people are apathetic and ill-informed about public policy; that elites actually shape mass opinion on policy questions more than masses shape that of the elite” (Dye, 1989:1).

Deriving from the theory is that policies are made to represent and protect more, the interest of the elite than the people. Elite theorists have come to agreement that the reason for the political scenario is that the elite with superior personal qualities constitute a cohesive and intelligent group with numerical minority that fits into the apparent hierarchical nature of governmental power. The ruling minority becomes inevitable. Put differently, the elites cohesion offers them the extra-bureaucratic power base to control the hierarchy of graded authority. Supporting this view, Suleiman (1985: 149) reveals that “policies are judged according to their impacts upon the power position of the elite”.
As logic would expect, to think that policies are made for the greatest good of the greatest number is to think the unthinkable!

Drawing from the elite theory, the self-governing system of local government is no less of the experience of the control of the ruling elite in society; the compradorial elites that used the illiterate majority to achieve their political interest as exemplified in the ossification of the local administrative and financial autonomy and failure of the local government to address the local needs of the people at the grassroots government. The existence of small, strong power elite among a mass of inactive rural people who are not involved in the decision to better their lives in the rural areas is a confirmation of Robert Michels Iron Law of Oligarchy which upholds that the masses remain inactive at the mercy of the decisions of the former. Hence, most rural areas within the local government in the country remain underdeveloped. No power supply, no good road, no pipe borne water, no health care delivery and education facility among others for the masses which Udenu Local Government is inclusive.

1.7 HYPOTHESES

- Previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government area, 2007-2012.


- The available economic sources contributed inadequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.
1.8 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The method of data collection adopted for this work is qualitative method. According to Obasi (2000:59), “qualitative method is the one that has variables which are not easily or objectively amenable to empirical measurement and verification”. Hence, it is most suitable for this work. It applies mostly to the non-statistically based data which essentially can be empirically studied. Although, it does not test hypotheses in the statistical sense of the term, but nevertheless, proves hypotheses using the deductive or inductive logical method of content analysis. Qualitative method may cover few cases, but the target is to establish relationship and validity within the social reality. Louise G. White (1990:209) observes that, “qualitative method asks not only what people do, but what their actions mean to them”.

More so, it lays emphasis on the context of behaviour to situations because it conducts its observation under natural settings, often devoid of artificialities and related computational manipulations. This is because it studies people’s behaviour and attitudes using ordinary or natural language rather than mathematical, statistical or numerical forms.

By and large, it is mostly applied to obtain in-depth information, variable clarification to facilitate instrument designs and in the conduct of pilot studies (Biereenu-bugwu, 2006). This technique enables access into the inner recesses of group life organizational structure, bureaucratic processes as well as motivations for the individual behavior. In this connection, this technique will enable us to establish an in-depth description analysis of the logical validity and interactions between variables under study.
Based on this, secondary sources such as text books, journals, magazines, newspapers, internet sources and other publications were relied upon.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

By research design, we mean plan that specifies how data should be collected and analyzed (Black and Champion 1976). It also provides the researcher with blueprint for study research problems. Asika (1991: 29) observes that, “research design is the structuring of investigation and at identifying variables and their relationships to one another”.

It also dictates boundaries of researchers to channel their energies in specific directions. It equally helps to anticipate potential problems in the implementation of the study and provide some estimate of the cost of the researcher possible measurement problems and the optional allocation of resources. As a matter of fact, this study is based on ex-post facto research design, due to its ability to investigate independent variable which has already occurred in respect to its possible relationship to the cause-and-effect on the dependent variables. Hence, it is most suitable for this study.

Obviously, the design is widely used in such diverse field as policy process, public law, political history, public administration and international relations etc. It is, indeed, the commonest of all the research designs, appearing in political science literature, and involves a careful examination of only a group, event or phenomenon at a single point after a pressure causal event has occurred.

**METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

Qualitative method of data analysis is adopted on this study for the purpose of analyzing our secondary data. By qualitative technique of data analysis, descriptive and
critical explanations were given to the data gathered on this research work in order to establish relationship between the variables understudy.

Therefore, the use of qualitative method of data analysis is informed by its simplicity with which it summarizes, exposes and interprets by giving a qualitative description and explanation to the variables understudy.
CHAPTER TWO

THE HISTORY OF UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Udenu Local Government Area is among the seventeen (17) local government councils in Enugu State. It was first created out of Isi-Uzo Local Government Council in 1981 during the Second Republic in Nigeria by the First Executive President, Alliaji Shehu Shagari.

Unfortunately, Udenu Local Government among other Local Governments created by the same regime could not survive the period as a result of military intrusion led by General Mohammed Buhari who announced the proscription of all that were created by Shagari government. On October 1st, 1996, Udenu Local Government was re-created among other Local Governments under the military government by General Sani Abacha in preparation for his transformation into a Civilian President.

Udenu Local Government has a population of about 178,687. Whereas 88,381 out of its population are males, 90,306 are females according to 2006 Census in Nigeria.

Presently, Udenu Local Government has three Development Centres and about twenty-seven (27) autonomous communities. The Development Centres include;

- Udenu Development Centre
- Udunedem Development Centre
- Orba Development Centre

For Udenu Development Centre, there are many Communities which include; Amalla, Ifruka, Umu-Enachi, Umu-Egali, Obollo-Afor, Umu-Ekwenu, Ihakpu, Obollo-Nkwo, Ibenda, Obollo-Orie, Obollo-Etiti, Ogwu/Ugbabe Uwani, Isi-Enu and Ajorogwu Communities.
Thus, **Orba Development Centre** on its part consists of Ohom, Ajuona, Agu-Obra and Orba Communities, while **Udenuedem Development Centre** comprises; Umundu, Ogbodu-Aba, Igugu, Ezimo-Ulo, Ezimo-Agu, Imilike-Etiti, Imilike-Enu and Imilike-Ani Communities.

**Geographical Location**

The headquarters of Udenu Local Government Council is strategically located in the town of Obollo-Afor at A3-Highway with the postal code of 412. The local government as a whole has a tropical forest with evergreen vegetation of rain forest and land. Its latitude is approximately $7^\circ$ North, $7^\circ$ longitude and $50^\circ$ East with 65 kilometers, North of Enugu. Udenu local government is bounded on the North by Igbo-Eze North Local Government, on the West by Nsukka Local Government and on the East by Isi-Uzo Local Government; while on the South, it is bounded by Igbo-Eze South Local Government, and all in Enugu State.

**Political History**

Udenu Local Government Council with its people jumped up and down in celebration of self government among themselves with high ecstasy in 1981 when the local government was first created by the then civilian government under the leadership of Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Their joy and happiness were cut-off when the military government led by Gen.Mohammed Buhari on 31st December, 1983 announced the obituary of the Second Republic and abolished all the local governments created by Alhaji Shehu Shagari’s regime among other things.
Political Leadership

Hon. Silas Odo who hails from Ezimo was made to administer the local government after its creation from 1981-1983, and Hon. Oken Ogbonna (Caesar) from Amalla who only served the period of six (6) months before the military took over. When Udenu Local Government was again created among others under military rule by Gen. Sani Abacha on 1st October, 1996, a sole-administrator was appointed in the person of Chief Samuel A. Oziobo (KSM) to man its administration. There and then, ten (10) electoral wards were equally created to enhance an effective and efficient administration at the rural areas of the Local Government.

In 1997, the local government election conducted saw Hon. James O. Ugwu as the then Udenu Local Government Council’s Chairman. He emerged as a winner under the political platform of Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN), though enmeshed in post-election litigation with the opposing party, United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP).

However, the demise of the Nigerian maximum dictator, Gen. Sani Abacha on June 8th, 1998 ushered in a new military regime led by General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who dissolved the existing political parties formed by Gen. Abacha and formed new ones. In 1999, Hon. Eugene Odo who hails from Obollo-Afor won the local government council’s election conducted under the platform of All Peoples Party (APP). Hon. Eugene Odo’s tenure lapsed in 2001 and was sworn in again as the Caretaker Committee Chairman which ended in 2002.

Following the exit of Hon. Eugene Odo in 2002, a Transition Committee chaired by Hon. Bernard Eze who hails from Obollo-Afor came in the saddle. The Transition Government of Hon. Eze ended in 2003 after the general elections, and was restored
later. It, therefore, brought summarily the end of Hon. Eugene’s Transition Committee in 2004. At that time, the then Head of Personnel Management (HPM), Comrade Uwakwe Ezeja took over as the sole administrator in Udenu Local Government. Not so long, the Local Government Council’s election took place in the same year, 2004 and he vacated the office. Hence, the Local Government Council’s election conducted brought in Hon. Fabian Ugwu under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Hon. Fabian Ugwu hails from Obollo-Eke. Unluckily to him, his government ran into trouble which necessitated his deputy from Amalla Ward to take over from him. The trouble that ensued which put his deputy in office could not last and he was again freed to take over his office and finally handed over to the Caretaker Committee in 2007 chaired by Hon. Innocent Anayo Eze from Obollo-Etite Ward.

Within four months the Committee was sworn in, the Local Government Council’s election took place and the Committee handed over to Hon. Prince Ezeh from Amalla Ward who won under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The government of Hon. Ezeh ended in January 14th, 2010 and he handed over to Hon. Godwin Abonyi from Obollo-Etiti who was elected as the Executive Chairman of Udenu Local Government Area.

**Cultural Activities in Udenu Local Government Area**

The major cultural activities widely observed by the people of Udenu Local Government yearly include:

- New yam festival
- Omabe festival
- Akatakpa/Ogede festival
Aja-Agu Imilike

Kpoo of Amalla.

Mineral Deposits in Udenu local Government Area

Udenu Local Government is, by and large, endowed with numerous mineral resources waiting to be harnessed in many parts of the local government. These include; coal, salt, petroleum and uranium etc.

Agriculture

Udenu Local Government Area is an agrarian society. It is heavily blessed with landmass which is very fertile for agricultural production in all the communities under the local government. The food crops mostly growing in Udenu Local Government Area include; yams, rice, cassava, beans, melons, cashew and so on. It also has a fertile landmass for the rearing of animals such as cows, cattle, goats, sheep and the rest of them which the farmers in the most communities engage themselves as their major occupations. The local government also has other agricultural potentials such as palm trees for the production of palm-oil, palm kernel, tapping of palm wine, banana, plantain, cow-nuts, groundnuts and rest of them. The people of Udenu Local Government Area equally engage in the production of honey for sales and hunting of wide animals, maize and assorted vegetables for human consumptions.

Socio-Economic Life

The people of Udenu Local Government Area are friendly and peace-lovingly people. They welcome foreigners/ strangers, friends and all people with unquestionable characters, and entertain them graciously. They are caring and live as their brothers’ and sisters’ keepers at all times. They love good characters and associate with them, while
detesting and disassociating themselves from the negative and questionable characters. They also have respect for their cultures/traditions and elders as well. Disobedience, adultery, stealing and witch-craft of any kind among the people in Udenu Local Government Area are regarded as heinous acts which cannot be condoned by their customs/traditions in the land. Hence, they are law-abiding people in Enugu State and Nigeria in general.

Added to the peculiar attributes of the people of Udenu Local Government Area, are their industriousness and diligent pursuit of desires. They are among the hardworking people in the universe and God-fearing. These attributes enabled them to be making judicious use of their God-gift potential landmass for agricultural productions. Udenu Local Government like other Local Governments in Enugu State has crops of talented and resourceful personalities who have ascended to greatness through education, farming and trading, skilled and unskilled works both within and outside the local government. Hence, they are very enterprising people.

**Markets**

Udenu Local Government has so many markets to transact their businesses. Among them include; The World Bank Market at Orie Orba, Obollo-Afor Main Market, Obollo-Eke, Orie Imilike, Amalla Market and so on. The World Bank Market at Orie Orba and Obollo-Afor Market usually host millions of people on daily basis from all works of life due to their strategic locations and sizes, since a lot of goods or commodities can be bought and sold there. The presence of these major markets helped in a long way to empower most of the indigenes of the local government,
and at the same time, reduced level of crimes that could have unleashed the areas, because everyone is busy on daily basis.

2.1 PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS AND SOCIAL AMENITIES IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The term, administration is a multi-dimensional concept. Individuals, now tend to define administration from their personal reflections and environmental factors and personal perceptions.

Notwithstanding, no matter how fluid the definitions of administration appears to be, an attempt will be made to articulate some definitions offered by many authors on the subject and therefore, offers some explanations. By this, we can say that the term, administration covers almost every sphere of activity of human endeavour and can be taken to mean anything ranging from directing and coordinating the affairs of an enterprise for the betterment of humanity.

In his opinion, Presthus (1962) says that administration is an activity or process concerned with the means for carrying out prescribed ends. For him, administration is a process or activity to achieve given end.

For Simon, Smithburg and Thompson (1956), when two men cooperate to roll a stone that neither could have moved alone, the rudiments of administration have appeared. The above definition portrays administration a non-discipline and an all-comers area rather than a full time job requiring specialized skill.

Another authority in this contest, Stephen P. & Robbins (1985) then see administration as the universal process of efficiently getting activities completed with and through other people. They opine that the process is concerned with planning, organizing,
leading and controlling that take place to accomplish the objectives. This definition is comprehensive and encompasses the basic elements which present day administration endeavours to achieve. It includes that activities must be directed towards an end, the need for efficiency as resources are limited, and relevance of two or more persons before administration can take place.

Balogun (1983) equally has offered a definition of administration. According to him, we shall regard as administrative, any action that is directed to the analysis of policies, the identification of options and to a substantial degree, the implementation of programmes as well as the efficient allocation of resources. In addition to all these calculated decisions, a typical administrative action takes into consideration the enduring and the goals of the organization as well as the environment within which the action takes place. The above definition captures in addition to other issues, the fact that administration must take cognizance of efficiency in goal attainment and the environmental factors which impinge on every administration.

Precisely, administration is inevitable in any given situation where a piece of work has to be done, especially when this piece of work requires the efforts of more than one person to accomplish it. We are involved in administrative behavior when we cooperate with other people to accomplish such objective as erecting a community town hall, constructing and maintaining schools, churches, hospitals, government ministries and parastatals.

From the foregoing, we can infer that administration is the process of coordinating, mobilizing group activities, combining and harmonizing mobilized efforts to achieve organizational goals. It is the conscious, rational and deliberate application of
prudent behaviours based on rational principles to direct, coordinate, control, motivate and channel the activities of others to attain a particular goal. It is the combination, utilization, coordination of men, money and materials within an organization for the accomplishment of identifiable goals.

Administration generally takes place in the context of organizations, which means in the context of a planned system of cooperative effort in which individuals have assigned functions. Whether you think of the church, the army, the local government, an industrial or business concern or a purely social organization, there have to be administration because each one consists of human beings brought together in a hierarchical setup, making use of tools, equipment, human and material resources in the quest to attain the objective for which the organization is established. This process of reaching objectives requires conscious planning, organizing, commanding, coordination and control etc which are conscious efforts to make the organization attain its goal. Therefore, administration is a complex process that arises when a group of persons cooperate to enforce a set objective under defined guidelines.

By social amenities, we mean those social services such as good roads, electricity, clean water, education and health facilities etc by the government in power for the attainment of good lives in the society. It is obvious that without the above mentioned social amenities, lives generally will become unbearable. They do not cost less to the reach of individual. Hence, a good and responsible government usually takes them upon itself to ensure that people do not find them wanting at any given time. This is why people all over the world are agitating for the practice of government associated with the characteristics democracies in all societies. The belief is that democracy allows the
people to use the political system to improve the standard of their livings and their
general well-beings in the society.

Since the inception of current democracy in 1999, people have no doubt that it
will provide adequate social amenities which the military governments have denied them
over the years to improve their lives. Therefore, the people of Enugu State, including
Udenu Local Government expected adequate social amenities such as good roads,
education, health facilities, electricity, clean water and so on, for the development of their
rural areas. Therefore, the enthronement of the nascent democracy in Nigeria since 1999
brought many political leaders to serve Udenu Local Government Council for the sole
purpose of enhancing rural development. Among them were; Hon. Odo Eugene, Chief
Bernard Ezeh, Hon. Ugwu Fabian, Dr. Prince Ezeh and Hon. Godwin Abonyi. Because
of the scope of this study, it is therefore, focused and limited to the critical investigations
and analyses of Dr. Prince Eze and Hon. Godwin Abonyi’s Administrations concerning
major aspects of social amenities expected in Udenu Local Government to enhance rural
development during their tenures.

2.2 DR. PRINCE EZE’S ADMINISTRATION AND PROVISION OF WATER
AND ELECTRICITY

Before here in this chapter, we have seen administration as the process of
coordinating, mobilizing group activities, combining and harmonizing mobilized efforts
to achieve organizational goal. The organizational goal in this context, however, is the
rural development for the well-being of the people. For the purpose of this section,
emphasis is placed on Dr. Prince Eze’s Administration concerning the aspect of clean
water provision and electricity generation for the rural populace.
Water Supply in Udenu Local Government Area

Water is generally conceived as one of the major sources of life in every society. The biologists made it categorically clear that water is eminently good for every living thing to sustain life, involving plants and animals. Upon this, the water essentially needed by animal especially human beings is the clean one. Clean water in most societies is very scares especially when it comes to the rural areas. In most traditional societies of Africa, the major sources of water include; rivers, ponds, dams, spring, well waters and boreholes. In most cases, some will be filtered, while others will not undergo such process before utilization. From there, people in the rural areas wash their cloths, bath, cook and drink to sustain their lives.

However, groundwater is generally considered to be pure and safe to drink as it undergoes a filtering and cleaning process through a subsoil cover and rock medium that surface water does not have (Gerard, in Michael, Ubuoh and Akande, 2009). Thus, this does not guarantee groundwater purity. Problem can, indeed, arise either due to the natural conditions in the ground or contamination by human activities. Michael, Ubuoh and Akande (2009) argue that groundwater quality problems are caused principally by hardness and excess or high concentration of dissolved solutes. With the exception of hardness and sodium chloride in groundwater, high concentrations of dissolved salts pose occasional problems to plants and animals. This is why Wright and Nebel, (2004) in Michael, Ubuoh and Akande (2009) observe that the natural chemistry of groundwater varies widely, depending on the nature of the sub-soils and rocks that it passes through. For instance, Gerard (1998) reports that in Ireland, limestone bedrock and lime-stone
dominated sub-soils are common and consequently groundwater in the area is often contaminated containing high concentrations of calcium, sodium and magnesium.

No doubt, researches over the past decades have revealed that water from the above sources is usually inflicted and contaminated with a lot of diseases such as water and air borne diseases, cholera, guinea wars, malaria and so on. It is from the above obvious reasons that made the government of all countries in the world especially at the local level to place much attention on the supply of clean water to the rural dwellers in order to prevent having sick people in the society.

This noble objective is not excluded in Nigeria and Enugu State, where Udenu Local Government Council to some extends shared under Dr. Prince Eze’s Administration.

By the way of illustration, see the figures below:

**Figure 1**

![A new generator at the Obollo Afor Water bore-hole](image)

**Source:** Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009).
Water is a major ingredient of life and to lack basic clean water is to lack one of the major sources that make life worth living (Okongwu, 2008). Water is observed to be the greatest problem in the big commercial towns of Obollo-Afor, Orba and other
communities in Udenu Local Government where people have not had water supply from the borehole which remains their major source of water for the past eight years.

According to Eze (2009), everybody buys water at very exorbitant price. A tanker of water during drying season sells between seven thousand and eight thousand naira (N7, 000.00-N8, 000.00) only. It is pertinent to note that the Obollo-Afor water borehole was commissioned before the civil war, but due to absolute negligence, it crashed out and ceased to be serving people with water till date.

More importantly, Micheal, Ubuoh and Akande (2009) observe that groundwater is used as drinking water supply source by about a quarter of the population in Nsukka area. As estimated by Eze (2003) in Michael, Ubuoh and Akande (2009), domestic wells provide drinking water to 28% of the population of the area, including almost the people residing in villages where the water table is close (less than 8 meters) to the surface and where the well-yield is generally high. According to the information they obtained during their research on the field reveals that domestic wells are equally scares and unevenly distributed in the area. Hence, many villages such as Umundu, Igugu, Imilike, Obollo-Afor, Amalla, Orba, Ovoko, Iheaka and the rest of them on the central region of Udenu Local Government have virtually no functional domestic wells and boreholes till date.

**Rural Electrification in Udenu Local Government under Prince Eze Administration**

Electrification in any environment is the engine of societal development. Electrification or otherwise known as power supply is a major source of life, economy and social awareness which when put together bring about the much needed rural development in terms of local government, and at the same time, facilitates national
development at large in the states and national level. It is unarguable that without electrification in the society, no meaningful development of any sort; be it at the micro or macro level will take place.

By electrification, we mean the process by which energy plants for the generation of electricity or power supply for human comfort and technical works of various kinds is installed in a given locality. According to Devine and Warren (1983), electrification is the process of powering by electricity and is usually associated with changing over from another power source. The broad meaning of the term, electrification, such as in the history of technology and economic history, usually applies to region or national economy.

Broadly speaking, electrification was the build out of the electrical generating and distribution systems which occurred in the United States, Britain and other countries from the mid 1880s until around 1950s, and is in progress in rural areas of most developing countries of the world. This include the change over from line shaft and belt drive using steam engines and water power to electric motors. Thus, the electrification of particular sectors of the economy is called by terms such as factory electrification, household, rural or railway electrification. It may also apply to changing industrial processes such as smelting. Separating or refining from one coal or coke heating or chemical processes to some type of electrical processes to some type of electric process such as electric arc furnace, electric induction or resistance heating or electrolysis or electrolysis separating.

By rural electrification, however, we mean the process of bringing electric power supply and installation to the rural or remote areas for the wellbeing of the inhabitants. Electricity is used not only for lighting and household purposes, but it also allows for
mechanization of many farming operations, such as threshing, milking and hoisting grain for storage. In areas facing labour shortages, this allows for greater productivity at reduced cost. According to IEA (2009), Worldwide 1.456 billion people (18% of the world’s population) do not have access to electricity, of which 83% live in rural areas. In 1990, around 40 percent (2.2 billion) of the world’s population still lacked power. Much of this increase over the past quarter century has been in India, facilitated by mass migration to slums in powered metropolitan areas. India was only 43% electrified in 1990 as opposed to about 75% in 2012. In 1979, 37% of China’s rural population lacked access to electricity entirely. Some 23% of the population in East Java, Indonesia, a core region also lack electricity as surveyed in 2013. In sub-savanna Africa, less than 10% of the rural population has access to electricity, where the world wide electrification progresses slowly. The IEA estimates that if current trends do not change, the member of people without electricity will rise to 1.2 billion by the year 2030 due to high population growth.

Nevertheless, Nigeria is not exempted from the ugly experiences among most of the developing countries in the world concerning poor electrification, especially when it comes to the rural communities upon which Udenu Local Government is inclusive. It is noted that most of the poor rural areas in the country as in Udenu Local Government, people still carry water by hand, their food storages are limited and their activities are equally limited to daylight hours, thereby, disallowing more time for productivity. According to Prince Eze (2009) in his Historic footprints of a Determined Leadership, a lot of communities, involving villages in Udenu Local Government have no rural electrification on ground; as a result, people in those places have been suffering from untold hardship emanating from absence of preservation of their perishable products. He
maintains that his administration has brought 12 transformers, in which case, many of the transformers have been installed, while some communities that have never had electricity pools before now have them.

Thus, some of the areas touched by Prince Eze’s administration in terms of rural electrification are displayed below.

**Figure 4**

Source: Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009)

**Figure 5**

Source: Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009)
Moreover, it was observed, according to Prince Eze, that criminals hibernate in the dark corners of the urban and rural areas of the local government to commit a lot of atrocities like rape, robbery and even murders. Hence, some major streets in Obollo-Afor, Orba, Obollo-Etiti, Obollo-Eke and Amalla were given street lights respectively so as to help in checkmating criminal activities in those areas.

Despite the above records, the condition of power supply in Udenu Local Government today stands better to imagine than to discuss. According to Onwe (2010), it is observed that the increasingly power supply to the people of Udenu Local Government is only done perfectly on papers and radios, because for the past decades people have resort in the use of generator instead of electricity for their daily activities. For Chika (2011), the method of using refrigerators for the preservation of agricultural products in Udenu Local Government is a mirage before and since the inception of
democracy in the country. He observes that people mostly in the rural areas of Udenu local Government no longer express hope of steady power supply now, because it is expectation that can never come to pass looking at the behavioural pattern of government in power since the emergence of the nascent democracy in the country.

2.3 Hon. Godwin Abonyi’s Administration and Provision of Road Network and Health Facilities in Udenu Local Government Area

Hon. Godwin Abonyi hails from Ada, Obollo-Etiti. Before his assumption of office as the Chairman Udenu Local Government in 2010 following the exit of his predecessor, Hon. Prince Ignatus Eze in 2009, he was appointed as a Special Assistant to the Governor Sullivan Chime on Health/Environment.

In this part, the study looked at the extent to which his administration was able to affect conditions of road network and heath facilities in order to enhance rural development.

Road Network in Udenu Local Government

Total road network includes motorways, highways, and main or national roads, secondary or regional roads, and all other roads in a country. A motorway is a road designed and built for more traffic that separates the traffic flowing in opposite directions (World Bank, 2013).

By road, we mean a thoroughfare, route, or way on land between two places which has been paved or otherwise improved to allow travel by some conveyance including a horse, cart or motor vehicle. Roads consist of one or sometimes two roadways, each with one or more lanes and also any associated sidewalks. Thus, roads that are available for use by the public may be referred to as public roads or highways.
The organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2009) defines road as a line of communication using a stabilized base other than rails or air strips open to public traffic, primarily for the use of road motor vehicles running on their own wheels which include bridges, tunnels, supporting structures, junctions, crossing, interchanges and toll roads, but not cycle paths. In urban areas, roads may diverge through a city or village and be named as streets serving a dual function as urban space easement and route. Modern roads are normally smoothed, paved or otherwise prepared to allow easy travel. Historically, many roads were simply recognizable routes without any formal construction or maintenance.

In United States, laws distinguish between public use and private roads which are privately controlled. In United Kingdom, there is some ambiguity between the terms, highway and road. The Highway Code details rules for road users. For the purposes of the English law, Highways Act 1980 which covers English and Wales but not Scotland or Northern Ireland, the term road is defined to be any length of highway or of any other road to which the public has access, and include bridges over which a road passes. This includes footpaths, bridleways and cycle tracks, and driveways on private land and many car parks. For instance, Vehicle Excise Duty is a road use tax payable on some vehicles used on the public roads.

Therefore, good accessible roads within local government jurisdiction stand as germane for socio-economic and environmental development to its rural areas which in turn have significant impact on the welfare of the people. Sometimes, absence of good roads hampers the activities of the rural farmers in many folds. For example, absence of good roads has affected the people of Udenu Local Government in most parts of the rural
areas during the plantation period adversely, when taking their crops and other seeds to farms in the past. The same thing can be said about them during the harvesting season, especially the year of bomber harvest. In this way, a lot of their farm proceeds have got rotten in the farms due to inaccessible roads before they could reach to the hands of the buyers in the market place. The above situation prevailed in the area of road network during and before Prince Eze’s administration in Udenu Local Government.

As a matter of fact, after taken over from him by his successor, Hon. Godwin Abonyi, the situation could not said to be changed until 2011 when Governor Sullivan Chime got re-elected for his second tenure in office. From there and then, attention began to be given to the rural roads network in most of the Local Governments in Enugu State by the State Government. In Udenu Local Government, it was more of grading and lathriting of the rural roads, instead of construction. For more illustrations, see the figures below:

Figure 7 figure 8

Source: Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009)
Regrettably, the people of Udenu Local Government especially the rural dwellers are still suffering and passing through dilapidated roads in their various communities. This is because the worst parts of their rural roads were absolutely neglected by the government owing to the reason best known to them. According to Charles (2012), the people of Udenu Local Government living in the rural areas are obviously finding it very difficult to make their ways freely to the farms during raining and drying season. Hence, their products usually end up wasted as a result of protracted erosion on the roads. For more illustrations, see the figures below;

Figure 9

Figure 10

Source: Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009)

Figure 11

Figure 12

Source: Historic Footprints of a Determined Leadership by Prince Eze (2009)
Health Facilities in Udenu Local Government

Health facilities are places that provide health medical care for all people in the society. They include hospitals, clinics, outpatient care centres and specialized care centres, such as birthing centres and psychiatric care centres.

Health, on itself, is the level of functional or metabolic efficiency of every living organism. In humans, it is the general condition of a person’s mind and body, usually meaning to be free from illness, injury or pain. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health in its broader sense in 1946 as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Therefore, the systematic activities to prevent or cure health problems and promote good health in humans are undertaken by health care providers, while the applications with regard to animal health are covered by the veterinary sciences.

Above all, health is conceived as a state of physically and mentally wellbeing, not merely the absence of illness. Thus, no country in the world can attain her greater economic heights when significant proportion of her population is confronted with preventable health challenges. In Nigeria, the Revised 2004 National Health Policy has not addressed the current health challenges of Nigerians. To be sure, majority of Nigerians, particularly those residing in the rural areas are facing preventable health problems such as malaria, typhoid, fever, HIV/AIDS pandemic, infant and maternal deaths among others.

According to Tony (2009) the high rate of infant mortality and under 5 mortality rate (US MR) are associated with high rate of infant mortality disease, namely malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections (AR), measles, polio, malnutrition etc. he maintains
that the high rate of the above diseases and their destructive effects on majority of Nigeria is aptly indicative of abject poverty. Hence, there is a popular dictum that health is wealth.

In 2010, a public health worker in Udenu Local Government of Enugu State told HRW that not even one health centre had been repaired in recent years. In some centres, their only supplies of medicines expired as far back as 2000. The result was that people ceased to come to the health centre. In few instances, one could see some drugs but only the ones donated by foreign donors and United Nations agencies. For instance, when the Human Rights Watch (HRW) visited six primary health centres in Udenu Local Government; in some of these, the floor was literally covered with garbage and other filth; the staff said that the building flooded with each rain, and the floor was later caked with mud, and strewn with water-logged boxes of ruined polio vaccines. It had no mattresses, toilet facilities or other basic amenities, rusty bed frames, no water supply, no electricity or toilet facilities (Osondu, 2011). He observes that a nurse on duty told HRW that one mattress had been donated by the Udenu Diaspora in the United State but had yet to arrive and that the staff had negotiated an agreement with a neighbouring household to allow them and their patients to use their families’ out house. The health centre had water pump, but this had been broken for more than two years and never repaired or renovated.

These stark instances are simply microcosmic of the prevalent situation across the Nigerian State and Local Governments. Primary school education and primary health care are the two most basic human social needs after food and shelter. This condition of extreme deprivation does arise from lack of sufficient public resources but more
importantly due to crass neglect by public authorities- a quintessential indicator of governance deficit.

Drawing from the foregoing, the basic social amenities such as water supply, electricity, roads network and health facilities in Udenu Local Government were not given adequate attention by the previous administrations based on the empirical evidence before us. Hence, the study argues that the previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government from 2007 -2012.
CHAPTER THREE

POPULAR DISEMPOWERMENT AND CHILDREN IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The best way to explain popular disempowerment is to begin to say what popular empowerment is all about. By popular empowerment, we mean a creation of wealth and development of economy in any society. It also advances and accelerates rural development. Popular empowerment is no doubt talks about societal development, because people must be empowered to use the political system to develop themselves for their betterments and their areas in general. This is the reason people always demand the form of government usually associated with the characteristics of democracy, because democracy on itself has an intercontinental qualifications for popular empowerment in every society. It, however, captured by Nnoli when he states that:

By all indications, it is through the democracy of popular empowerment in Africa that the historic mission of democracy will finally be consummated or betrayed. It presents an unprecedented opportunity for democracy to actualize its civilization potentials both as political morality, an instrument of social transformation, a condition for human autonomy and peaceful co-existence, and as the consummate emancipatory project (Nnoli, 2008:406).

Thus, popular empowerment denotes the increasing capacity of the masses to directly and concretely influence politics in their own interest.

By popular disempowerment, we mean the process of negating socio-economic and political wellbeing of the citizens as well as offering them their concrete rights in the society by the government. Disempowering the people cannot enable them to exact
accountability from their leaders. This ensures that leaders are more corruptible, and cannot bring public policy in alignment with social needs, because popular disempowerment cannot call into question on the previous structures, and relations between politicians and their constituencies. According to Jude (2010) popular disempowerment eliminates all classes of people and all facets of societal development that can encourage efforts on education system. As a result, the education of the children in the society, especially in the rural areas cannot be properly taken care of. Hence, the structures cannot be in place, and if at all, cannot be adequately equipped to guarantee quality education. According to him, government is good and responsible only when people are empowered in all aspects of living which will keep the tempo of development and progress in education at all levels.

By education, we mean the internationalization of knowledge, skills, morals, and values. Education is multifaceted; it is culture, it is also development as well as human right. To appreciate the meaning of education, it must be interpreted from a culture approach. Tylor’s impressive definition of culture stated that it includes socially acquired knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, morals, customs and habits. Education can also be seen as a correlative of development.

In the words of Adamolekun (2007), development is the enhancement of the quality of life of citizens in meeting the basic needs for food, shelter, good health, education and a general sense of well being. For Nnoli (1980), development is a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environment, transforming them to their own betterment and that of humanity at large and being
transformed in the process. That is to say, development is more than just the acquisition of industries but includes the ideals of modernization as rise in productivity, social and economic equalization, modern technical know-how, improved institutions and attitudes as well as rational co-ordinate policy apparatus.

Again, education is seen as one of the most fundamental human rights. The right to education is guaranteed in both international and regional human rights instruments. Unfortunately, the children of Nigerians who are below the middle and upper class level receive either half-baked or no formal education at all. This is because apart from the apparent lack of educational facilities in primary and secondary schools, the teachers are so dismally de-motivated that they hardly stay in school to impart any meaningful knowledge. Indeed, a very common sight as one drives through some states in this country is school children learning under trees and roofless classroom blocks. People subjected to this condition not less than 60% of Nigeria are really poor.

The primary education in Nigeria has also experienced a steady decline over the course of the past few decades. According to Tony (2009), the public perception is that the quality of education offered is low and the standards have dropped. These populations are based on lack of adherence to acceptable educational practice, teacher qualifications are low, and the learning environment does not provide effective learning. Basic facilities, teaching and learning resources are generally not available teacher-pupil ratios are high, while the general performance in examinations is poor and the graduates have low level of competence in the work environment.

These problems have remained the same thing everywhere on education system in this country. Udenu Local Government cannot say to be different from others. Hence,
popular disempowerment undermined the education of children in Udenu Local Government from 2007-2012.

3.1 TOWN UNION AND PROVISION OF EDUCATION MATERIALS IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A Town Union is an organization of people within a given community for developmental purposes. It is not associated with traditional institutions in the communities, but stands differently for socio-economic and political development. However, traditional institution sees for the protection and maintenances of customs, beliefs, norms and values of the community which are products of people’s way of lives that are reserved and transferred from one generation to another.

As a matter of fact, Town Union is bound to obey the laws, rules and customs of the community while discharging its duties. Hence, the harmonious relationship between the Traditional Institution and the Town Union for an overall development and wellbeing of the community is essentially imperative. According to Fidelis and Chikelue (2009), the Town Union leaders are chosen representatives of community, working in collaboration with the traditional rulers for the day to day running of the community especially as it concerns project implementation and community development.

In Nigeria, the Town Union is seen as the product of the Igbo Man’s genetic configuration of unrepentant republicanism. Hence, it remains the identity of the Igbo man that has stood the taste of time, and predates the colonial era.

More so, Town Union is one of the most effective and efficient structure in Igbo land that brings development to the grassroots through self helps efforts. For Okafor (2009), 90%
of all the development in Igbo land such as Schools, Churches, Market Square, and Roads etc; especially in the rural communities are through self helps efforts of the community members organized by Town Union and similar community organizations. It cuts across all political, religious, social and demographic cleavages.

It is pertinent to note that Town Union remains one of the most effective and unbiased agents of social mobilization, political education, dissemination of information and government policies and programmes to the grassroots. Thus, this structure is political but not partisan. It acts as a feed-back mechanism that relays back to the government, the feelings of people and their reactions at the grassroots to the various programmes and policies actions and inactions of the government.

In the case of Udenu Local Government, one cannot say emphatically that the Town Union does not exist in its various communities. Because, it does exist but the truth of the matter is that the existing ones such as Obollo-Afor Town Union, Amalla Town Union, Obollo-Etiti Town Union, Obollo-Eke Town Union, Orba-Town Union, Ugbudu Abba Town Union etc are not living up to their responsibilities for effective rural development, especially on education. It is observed that among the numerous Town Unions existing in various communities of Udenu Local Government, none of them has been able to contribute either in cash or in kind to the education of the children at the grassroots, and even impacted on any other area of rural development in the local government. According to Chima (2010) the various Town Unions in the whole of Udenu Local Government are all dormant, inactive and non-functional. A situation where one will look around and there will be no single project carried out by any of the existing Town Union in the whole of the Local Government for years is quite unacceptable to the
goals of the new era. For Abugu (2009), the wide belief of the notion of Town Union resolves around lubricating rural development of Local Governments in the country, in which case many are living up to their obligations but not in Udenu Local Government of Enugu State. According to him, no bridge, no roof in any school or other things can one boldly asserts is the handiwork of any of the existing Town Unions within the Local Government for decades to say the least. For Orbeta (2010), the whole lots of responsibilities of the Town Union in Udenu Local Government for some years now were not attended as a result of popular disempowerment. He maintains that people tend to contribute for the development of their society only when they are empowered by the government.

Drawing from the obvious community tax and other levies paid to the Local Government by every payable adult in the community, Ogbonna (2011) argues that the inability of the Town Unions in Udenu Local Government to live up to the expectations should best be attributed to the failure of the local government administrators to use the tax monies paid by people and other sources of revenue available before it to create enabling environment for them to improve their standard of living, and also contribute meaningfully to the development of society especially on the area of education. He opines that whenever the members of a given union or organization is poor verily, the organization is equally poor, and vice versa. Hence, a poor man is always in trouble to change his condition, let alone of contributing his quota to the development of society especially where it involves finance.
3.2 CIVIL SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

Civil society is an unusual concept, in that, it always seems to require being defined before it is applied or discussed. Perhaps, the simplest way to see civil society is as a **third sector**, distinct from government and business. In this view, civil society refers essentially to the so-called intermediary institutions such as professional associations, religious groups, labour unions, citizens’ advocacy, and other organizations that give voice to various sectors of society and enrich public participation in democracies.

Therefore, the term **Civil Society** has a range of meanings in contemporary usage. It is, sometimes, considered to include family and private sphere. According to Alagappa (2004), civil society is the aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions in the society which are independent of the government. For Edward (2004), civil society is the vehicle for the bourgeois hegemony, when it just represents a particular class. He underlines the crucial roles of civil society as the contributor of the cultural and ideological capital required for the survival of the hegemony of capitalism.

From the Western Antiquity, the concept of civil society in its pre-modern classical republican understanding is usually connected to the early-modern thought of Age of Enlightenment in the 18th Century. But before then, it has much older history in the realm of political thought. Generally, civil society has been referred to as a political association governing social conflict through the imposition of rules that restrain citizens from harming one another. In the classical period, the concept was used as a synonym for the good society, and seen as indistinguishable from the state. For instance, Socrates taught that conflicts within society should be resolved through public argument using **dialectic** as a form of rational dialogue to uncover truth.
According to Socrates, public argument through dialectic was imperative to ensure civility in the polis and good life of the people. For Plato, the ideal states was a just society, in which people dedicate themselves to the common good, practice civic virtues of wisdom, courage, moderation and justice, and perform the occupational role to which they were best suited. It was the duty of the Philosopher Kings to look after people in civility. Aristotle thought the polis was an association of associations that enables citizens to share in the virtuous task of ruling and being ruled. Thus, Philosophers in the classical period did not make any distinction between the state and society. Rather they held that the state represented the civil form of society and civility represented the requirement of good citizenship. Moreover, they held that human beings are inherently rational so that they can collectively shape the nature of the society they belong to. In addition, human beings have the capacity to voluntarily gather for the common cause and maintain peace in society. By holding this view, we can say that classical political thinkers endorsed the genesis of civil society in its original sense.

Nevertheless, Salihu (2009) asserts that civil society organizations include trade unions, professional associations, faith-based groups, media organizations, community-based groups and other forms of non-governmental organizations. In the context of education for all, civil society can be understood as all non-governmental and non-profit associations involved in education. It embraces groups such as campaign networks, teacher unions and religious organizations, community associations and research networks, parents’ associations and professional bodies, student organizations, social movements and others. It is pertinent to note that civil society and other EFA partners, especially at national level. It specifically recommends to ensure the engagement and
participation of civil society in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies for educational development. Though, the state has the ultimate responsibility for and authority over education in which civil society organizations play a major role.

**The Three Distinct Roles Identified are:**

**Service Providers**

In a situation where state’s provision of social amenities is absence or insufficiency, Civil Society Organizations are often more flexible than expected to redeem people at the grassroots level to attain to normal life, and where government is living up to its responsibilities, they take on responsibility for non-formal education programmes and are particularly successful in reaching the marginalized and excluded through approaches attuned to the needs and life conditions of poor. They are particularly effective in areas such as community participation, empowerment, literacy, community schools, reproductive health, and early childhood education is particularly valued.

**Informed Critics and Advocates on a Whole Range of Development Issues**

Non-governmental organizations’ campaigns at national and regional levels are lobbying in favour of free and compulsory quality education for children, youth and adults. Civil society organizations notably in Africa, Asia, Pacific and Nigeria in particular are increasingly organizing themselves to present a coherent voice and build systematic relationship with governments and international agencies. This is evident at national, local, regional and international levels. While the Global Campaign on Education plays a strong advocacy role at international level, regional and national networks are emerging or gaining ground; and communities are becoming more involved in educational issues and advocacy.
Education for All through Active Participation of Civil Society Organizations

On the World Education Forum in Dakar, the UNESCO Director-General, Koichiro Matsuura made promotion of dialogue with civil society, and one of his foremost concerns is on education for all. Today, one of the UNESCO’s key mechanisms for continuous dialogue is the collective consultation of NGOs on education for all. Its purpose is to broaden and promote the concept of EFA within the perspective of lifelong learning, reinforces recognition of the roles, contributions and experiences of civil society organizations in EFA so that these more directly influence national, regional and international education policies and programmes in EFA.

By and large, Udenu Local Government like other local governments in Enugu state hosts a lot of civil societies which include many churches, professional bodies and the rest of them. Unfortunately, all the major civil societies at present in Udenu Local Government are not living up to their expectations (Ogbonna, 2011). He notes that their members are always complaining of not been encouraged every time by the government in power through provision of essential amenities and other means of popular empowerment. For Richard (2010), the noble goals of civil society in our various communities cannot be properly actualized in the rural areas without adequate supports from the government and the communities themselves. He argues that one of the ugly trends that limits the performance of every given civil society in Udenu Local Government is the ever-growing of popular disempowerment that holds everyone standstill for years; leading to the pauperization of every organization as well as its members in the local government.
According to Ejiofor (2009), there is no informal organization around the globe that can stand alone to perform its main objectives, in terms of development of an area or other forms of humanitarianism without government. He observes that most of the civil societies in Udenu Local Government are ineffective and inefficiency as a result of poverty among their members. Hence, they do not contribute to the rural development of the areas in which they have been operating for so long now.

3.3 PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PTA) AND SCHOOL PROJECTS

Parent Teachers Association is an informal organization composed of parents, teachers and staff that is intended to facilitate parental participation concerning school projects for the development of education in the society. There are in United States, United Kingdom and Japan, and in most developing countries like Nigeria. In Enugu State and Udenu Local Government, to be precise, the story is not different as it regards to the education of the children.

In most public and private schools, there are Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Parent Teachers Organization or its equivalent local organization. These organizations also occur at high schools and pre-schools. Any person who joins a local PTA automatically becomes a member of both the state and National Parent Teachers Association (PTA). Its membership include; the number of affiliated units and individual members for whom their children are students or pupils to the school both past and present.

At the local government, local groups such as the parents are doing similar work but are unassociated with the state and national structure of the Parent Teachers
Association (PTA) as it is often known or Parent Teachers Organization (PTO). A number of other acronyms are used as well. In United States, roughly 25% of parent groups are PTAs, while the remainders are independent. There are 23,000 local organizations recognized by the National Parent Teachers Associations in the United States. In the United Kingdom, Parent Teachers Association is common and present in the majority of schools. Sometimes, they are called Home School Associations. An Annual Survey of Trends in Education (2007) found that 83 percent of primary schools, and 60 percent of secondary schools had Parent Teachers Association or equivalent.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland Parent Teachers Associations may choose to join PTA United Kingdom which describes itself as the National Charity representing over 13,750 PTAs across England, Wales and Northern Ireland which seeks to advance education by encouraging the fullest co-operation between home and school, educating authorities, central government and all other interested parties and bodies. Unlike the USA, the fact that a body is called a Parent Teachers Association does not, in itself, imply membership of a National Organization. There is a separate, similar body for Scotland. The Scottish Parent Teacher Councils are, in general, not involved in the governance of schools which is a matter for the school governing bodies, but in practice parents who are active in the PTA will tend to engage in the elections of parent representatives.

As a matter of fact, the National Parent Teachers Association has advocated for children and families for 103 years. Today, Parent Teachers Association has a proud history of important accomplishments, as it is committed to strengthen parent involvement in every school in the 21st Century.
It is the vision of Parent Teacher Association that when parents are involved with their children’s education, students achievement increases, school environments improve, and communities grow stronger (Okoronkwo, 2011).

In Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, the Parent Teachers Associations are all inactive, weak, and redundant in all angles to the development of education in their society. According to the supervisory councilor on education in Udenu Local Government in 2011, Hon. Benjamin Asadu, despite the fact that the government at all levels in this country is working at their best to ensure quality education for our children and children unborn, the parents on their own have issues to resolve, and that is their general attitudes towards education. What stops them from uniting together, and be discussing about the welfare of the schools in which their children are studying for the good of our society must be very serious issue. There is no school I visited in Udenu Local Government Area, both primary and secondary that their headmasters or principals admitted that the organization of Parents Teachers Association is working. These are parents who will be somewhere talking that the government is not working, while the little thing they can do to assure governments that they can appreciate, keep and maintain government projects will be missing from them. According to him, when he subjected one headmaster in one of the schools to questioning, the headmaster deposites that the outgoing headmaster in the school noted that the only time they attempted to come as they were invited to discuss how to replace a classroom building pulled out by the hurricane, instead of putting down suggestion that will see for the possible replacement before the government for the good of the society, they were expecting money from the headmaster who invited them and that marked the end of their presence and gathering in
the primary school till the headmaster got transfer to another school. Thus, this suggests that the level of poverty among people in Udenu Local Government disconnect them from carrying out their normal responsibilities for the education of their children, unlike other cities where people are empowered and are ready to assist government.

3.4 YOUTHS AND SUPPORTS FOR EDUCATION

The term *Youth* has been a subject of intense polemics in academic writings. At least, four major definitional interpretation of the term are identifiable in extant literature, namely: youth as an age category; as transitional stage between childhood and adulthood; a social construct; and as a social shifter.

Without prejudice to other definitions by member states, the United Nations defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Social Constructionists like Manni and Truzzi (1982), see youth as mere social creation. Explaining that the way society organizes its labour, values, and symbol influences how the youth is defined. For the transitionists, youth refers to a period of life between childhood or adolescent and adulthood. According to Balle (2007), Youth is viewed from the perspective of a social shifter, a relational term incorporating identity, time and space.

However, scholars like Richter and Panday (2007) insist that young people are not fixed category, neither historically, politically, culturally, socially and personally. Essentially for policy purposes, most African Countries adopt the age category definition. For instances, Kenya and Malawi define youth as 15-39 years of age; Sierra-Leone, Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal as 15-35; and South African, 14-35 years (Richter and Paday, 2007). In Nigeria, the youth is defined as all young persons of ages 18-35, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (National Youth Policy, 2001).
Drawing from the foregoing, many people have viewed youth everywhere in the world as not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the leaders of today. Hence, the youth remains the engine and bedrock of societal development and civilization. This is true only when the youth are empowered by the government. Unfortunately, it is estimated that about 70 percent of those who are unemployed in Nigeria are young people between the ages of 13-35 years (Youth Position Paper, 2007). More than 80 percent of the Nigerian youths are unemployed, while about 10 percent are under-employed. The estimated 10 percent in employment are burdened and depressed with near total dependence of relative and family members. Therefore, youth unemployment in Nigeria has been compounded by the phenomenon of graduates unemployment and informal sectors harbouring a substantial portion of underemployed. Worst still, those employed are underpaid. For instance, a graduate is paid a monthly salary of a fourteen thousand naira only (N14, 000.00) in some states of the federation (APRM, 2008).

Undoubtedly, empirical indicators such as the swarm of able-bodied men hawking vandalized and adulterated petroleum products in Udenu Local Government, legion of young ladies eking out a living through prostitution, young boys and girls selling Global System for Mobile telecommunication (GSM) recharge cards and consumables on the streets, army of area boys’ brandishing dangerous weapons at any slightest touch of provocation, and rabbles of militant and restive youth dotting every corner of the Local Government, to mention but a few, could serve if not better than official statistics in unraveling the extent of youth underdevelopment or disempowerment arising from pervasive unemployment, poverty and irresponsible governments.
Better still, youth disempowerment in Udenu Local Government emanates from both widespread unemployment and from exclusion from every form of viable economic activity, including what Soludo (2006:29) calls the “dynasties of disempowerment” an iniquitous situation where the children of the poor might end up being poorer and children of the elite who are privileged to be properly educated would end up being richer.

According to Prince Eze on the occasion of International Youth-Gay-Celebration in Udenu Local Government, the youth of the local government are undoubtedly scattered everywhere in the country in search of jobs and better lives. Hence, the contributions of youth towards education of children in primary and secondary schools, security and advancement of economy at the rural areas eluded the council for years. The above assertion brings to the summary that the youth of Udenu Local Government are not adequately empowered to stay at home and discharge their expected responsibility for rural development.

As a matter of fact, the study therefore, concludes that popular disempowerment undermined the development of education in Udenu Local Government from 2007-2012.
CHAPTER FOUR
ECONOMIC SOURCES AND SUSTENANCE OF PEOPLE'S LIVING IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Following the Richard’s constitution of 1945, certain sources of revenue were regionalized. Regional revenues were derived from licenses for, and taxes on hunting, liquor, motor vehicles, and driving, forestry, rents on mining rights and leases, court fees, water supply projects, direct and income taxes, reimbursements and miscellaneous sources. Thus, the money collected from these sources were much less than that accruing to the Federal Government essentially from customs duties, interests, posts and telegraphs, railways, direct tax, fees, excise duties, export duties, company tax, corporation tax, mining royalties and the profits of public corporations (Nnoli, 2008).

In a related development, the Hicks-Philipson commission arising from the Ibadan constitutional conference in 1950 recommended that regional revenues should be augmented by taxes on petrol which should be placed regional control. But the Federal Government postponed the decision, pending a study of the practical difficulties of implementing it. Thus, there is no doubt that “the success or close gap failure and the effectiveness of local government depend on the financial resources available to the individual local authorities, and the way these resources are utilized” (Adedeji, 1969:96). Meanwhile, what promoted the local government reform in Nigeria was the need for a more purposeful and effective local government system couple with local financial autonomy, where the edit stipulates internal and external revenues for local government.
The External sources of revenue include:

Statutory Allocation

This is a system whereby the local governments have a direct share of either specific items or the total of the nationally derived revenue. As (Orewa, 1991:121) rightly puts:

Only a few countries have this system because central governments in the world over do not easily accept the idea of partnership between them and their local authorities. They claim that since the local government is creatures of central government laws, the local governments should derive their revenue from sources so stated by such laws or the instrument establishing them, in addition to central government grants.

In Nigeria, section 7 (6) of the 1999 constitution provides that (a) the National Assembly shall make provision for statutory allocations of public revenue to local government councils in the federation; (b) the House of Assembly of a state shall make provision for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils within the state.

More specifically, the Revenue Allocation Act of 1981 provides for statutory allocation of 10 percent of national revenue to local government which became operational in 1982. The statutory allocation was later increased to 15 percent in 1989 and 20 percent in 1992 (Ezeani, 2006). In addition, state governments were required to contribute 10 percent of their total revenue into state local government account. This was later amended by the Federal Government and the State Governments were required to contribute only 10 percent of their internally generated revenue to Local Government (Dasuki Report, in Ezeani, 2006).
Grant

In Nigeria, the Federal Government provides the Local Governments with financial support in the form of grants to enable them achieve their functional targets. The grants take several forms, depending on the objectives which they are meant to attain. The major grants include block, equalization, percentage, unit, special and emergency grants. Therefore, the principle objectives of federal government grants-in-aid to local authorities among others are to promote the equal provision of particular social services such as health, education, police, highway development etc in all parts of the state by removing the imbalance in the resources available to the various local authorities for the financing of these services.

Loans

Loans constitute other sources of local government revenue. The Model Financial Memoranda for Local Government in Nigeria (1991) states that a local government is empowered by law to raise loans within Nigeria of such amounts, from such sources. In such manner, upon such conditions and for such purposes in fulfillment of its lawful functions as the appropriate law may prescribe. Such loans shall only be raised from the followings:-

*   The Local Government Loans Authority
*   Banks
*   In special circumstances from such other institutions as may be approved by the government.
For the internal sources of Revenue in Nigeria are as follow:

Rates: Is a tax levied on individual person or his assessed yearly income. It may also be used on the annual valuation of property, which is beneficially occupied by the taxpayer within the local government area.

Various types of rates

Property or Tenement Rate: In 1976, the Federal Military Governments added property rate as one of the sources of local government revenues (Ezeani, 2006). Property or tenement in this context includes dwelling houses, shops or any other kind of premises which are under beneficial occupation.

Capitation Rate: Is a rate payable by all males up to the age of sixteen years, and working class women residing within a particular local government.

Special Rates: Are those rates levied on persons for special purpose such as development rate, education rate or water rate. They may be levied on a state-wide-basis, or on people living in specified areas for services peculiar to the areas.

Taxes

These constitute another source of internally generated revenue of local governments Nigeria. There include:

Community Tax: Is simply a flat rate tax on individuals. This type of tax is payable by all male persons aged eighteen years (18) and above in the area of the local government.

Cattle Tax: Is normally charged in lieu of community tax and is paid by nomadic herdsmen. However, settled tribes may be called upon to pay both taxes. In practice, herds are counted each year and collection of the tax is effected later.
**Fees and Licenses:** Local Government Authorities also derive substantial internal revenues from the imposition of fees. Such fees are in respect of the use of council property or levies on certain trades or on the use of ownership of private property. Examples of charges on the use of council property are market stall fees and motor park fees. Those on the conduct of trade include; hawker’s fees, slaughter fees and native liquor licenses. Charges in respect of private property comprise bicycle licenses, dog and truck licenses etc.

Other sources of internal revenue of local governments in Nigeria include; receipts derived from any public utility, rents derived from the leasing of any building or land belonging to local government, interest on the investment of funds of local governments and money derived from fees.

In Udenu local government, the above discussed sources of revenue of local governments in Nigeria are also prevalence within its area of jurisdiction. In the same vein, the federal and state governments are adequately attuned and fair to this effect, especially when it concerns statutory allocation differently from the rest of the local government authorities in the country.

As a matter of fact, this section intends to examine the extent the available economic sources have contributed for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government from 2007-2012. This objective shall be attained by analyzing critically the revenue generation in Udenu Local Government and welfare of the people; the contribution of agriculture in Udenu Local Government and job creation; and mostly importantly, the operation of markets/other commercial services and self-reliance in Udenu Local Government.
4.1 Revenue Generation and People’s Welfare

In business, revenue is income that a company receives from its normal business activities usually from the sale of goods and services to customers. In some countries, revenue is referred to as turnover some companies receive revenue from interest, royalties, or other fees. Revenue may refer to business income in general, or it may refer to the amount in a monetary unit received during period of time. Hence, it is seen as the amount of money brought into a company by its business activity.

In accounting, revenue is often referred to as the top line due to its position on the income statement at the very top. For non-profit organization, annual revenue may be referred to as gross receipt. This revenue includes donations from individuals and corporations, support from government agencies, income from activities related to the organization’s mission and income from fund raising activities, membership dues, and financial investments such as stock shares in companies.

In the case of government, Revenue is referred as the money received from taxation, fees, fines, intergovernmental grants or transfers, securities sales, mineral rights and resources rights as well as any sales that are made by government.

In Udenu local government, its revenue involves external and internal revenue like every other local government in Enugu state and other states in the country at large. On the basis of external revenue in the local government, it depends largely on its statutory allocation from both the state and federal governments. For more illustrations, see the table below:
Table 1: showing the statutory allocation to Udenu Local Government from state and federal government since 2009-2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>39,277,879</td>
<td>39,731,926</td>
<td>27,999,356</td>
<td>701,777 827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39,731,926</td>
<td>15,712,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>59,634,899.49</td>
<td>36,471,227</td>
<td>55,225,694</td>
<td>77,939,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32,337,947</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>88,552,818</td>
<td>32,818,225</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>62,340,426.66</td>
<td>30,445,519</td>
<td>49,223,29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>35,718,374</td>
<td></td>
<td>48,166,890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>40,419,250</td>
<td>153,751,872</td>
<td>67,009,673</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53,204,879</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>38,767,449</td>
<td>50,313,317</td>
<td>76,018,386</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>47,672,999</td>
<td>46,404,399</td>
<td>75,516,826</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>40,208,342</td>
<td>9,178,144</td>
<td>78,033,368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>604,424</td>
<td>40,074,396</td>
<td>73,540,160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>40,586,374</td>
<td>50,242,207</td>
<td>21,933,731</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>42,274,117</td>
<td>44,482,229</td>
<td>85,689,202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the internal revenue in Udenu local government, we have the table below;

**Table 2**: Showing the sources for the generation of internal revenue in Udenu Local Government.

- Community/Capitation rate
- Arrears of community/capitation rate
- Development rate/levy
- Tenement rate (building)
- Property rate-filling station
- Arrears of tenement rate
- Local licenses and fines
- Commercial vehicle permits fees.
- Liquor license
- Animal fees
- Security
- Social Services
- Dispensary and maternity fees
- Earning from environmental sanitation
- Trading perpict fees
- Burial fees in local government century
- Personal identification by state
- Town planning fees
- Forestry and produce fees
- Forestry and produce fees
• Advertisements

• Motor park fees.

• Embedment registration permit (vehicle)

• Local government identification fees

• Pool house permit fee and so on

The above listed sources of revenue in Udenu local government were passed by Udenu local government legislative house on 13\textsuperscript{th} December, 2011.

\textbf{Source:} (Office of the speaker, Udenu legislative council, 2012).

However, the way revenues generated from both external and internal sources have impacted on the people’s welfare in Udenu Local Government was demonstrated on 10\textsuperscript{th} December, 2013 when the outgoing Chairman of the Local Government, Hon. Godwin Abonyi took a bow for the in-coming Local Government Chairman to assume office on 4\textsuperscript{th} January, 2014 at the headquarters. There and then, the Chairman of the National Union of Local Government Employees in the area, Mr. Casmir Odo said that the workers had never had it so good than the outgoing administration. In his words, we are happy here today to celebrate our success and struggle. It is a struggle because for over 15 years that this local government has come to be, we never had the opportunity of having the type of welfare services from new chief executive as we have had under his administration. That is why we deem it necessary to celebrate and to thank him, appreciate him and appreciate God. Before now, before his coming, anyone who has come close to this local government within three years, usually see us carrying placards, waling in the streets demanding for some salaries, allowances or the other, but for four
years he has been in this local government, we have had uninterrupted payment of salaries and allowances.

Well, as long as the above indicators remain reliable to this study, there are still other areas that board minds. That is, those who are not employed cannot say to be part of the beneficiaries of the regular payment of workers in the local government. According to Ede (2009) in Jude (2010), people in the most rural areas of Udenu Local Government are roaming in abject poverty because they are not employed; and yet, there is no wherewithal to embark on any business to earn a living, while those underemployed are just managing their families.

For Timothy (2010), the causes of inadequate standard of living among the rural dwellers in Udenu Local Government should be attributed to the inability of government to embark on manpower development which in turn will lead to the rapid rural development. He argues that since 1999 that marked the beginning of the nascent democracy, the government at all levels had failed to take a pragmatic step to tackle the issue of manpower development in the country. The National Poverty Alleviations Programme introduced in 1999 by President Obasanjo was abruptly hijacked by the strongmen at all levels of government to the detriments of the poor masses. In his own contribution, Anayo (2010) sees lack of prudent management of the local government finance as the remote causes of the poor living standard of people in Udenu Local Government. In supportive to the above assertion, Kelechi (2009) in Timothy (2010) notes that no meaningful development or achievement can take place in the midst of corrupt leaders who position themselves in power with the aim of appropriating public fund as it is the case in Udenu Local Government.
4.2 Contribution of Agriculture and Job Creation in Udenu Local Government Area

In spite of the growing importance of oil, Nigeria has remained essentially an agrarian economy, with agriculture still accounting for significant shares in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and total exports force. Available data show that at independence in 1960, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP was about 60 percent which is typical for developing agrarian nations.

By Agriculture, we mean the process of producing food, feed, fiber and other desired products by cultivation of certain plants and the raising of domesticated animals. Agriculture involving domestication of plants and animals was developed around 10,000 B.C. Although, earlier people began altering communities of flora and fauna for their own benefit through other means such as fire stick farming. Therefore, Agriculture at large has undergone significant developments since the time of the earliest cultivation. The fertile crescent of Western Asia, Egypt and India were sites of the earliest planned sowing and harvesting of plants that had previously been gathered in the wild.

Agricultural techniques such as irrigation, crop rotation, the application of fertilizers were developed. Soon after the Neolithic Revolution but have made significant strides in the past 200 years. In the past century, agriculture in the developed nations and to a lesser extent in the developing world has been characterized by enhanced productivity, the replacement of human labour by synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, selective breeding, and mechanization. Meanwhile, the recent history of agriculture has been closely tied with a range of political issues including water pollution, biofuels, genetically modified
organisms, tariffs and farm subsidies. In recent years, there has been a backlash against the external environmental effects of mechanized agriculture, and increasing support for the organic movement and sustainable agriculture.

However, it is a known fact that agriculture is the mainstay of most counties’ economy, and is fundamental to social, economic development as well in them. This is because agriculture represents a strategic asset to the overall well-being of a nation’s economy. It helps to provide foods, clothing, generate foreign exchange among others to the one’s country.

In Nigeria, Agriculture remains the major branch of the economy, providing employment opportunities for approximately 70% of the population. The sector has major crops which include beans, cashew nuts, cassava, cocoa, groundnuts, gum-arabic, kolanut, palm oil, palm kernel, maize, melon, millet, plantains, rice, rubber, sorghum, soybeans, yams and so on.

In 1990, 82 million hectares out of Nigerian total land area of about 91 million hectares were found to be arable, although only 42 percent of the cultivable area was farmed. While much of this land was farmed under the bush fallow system, whereby land is left idle for a period of time to allow natural regeneration of soil fertility, 18 million hectares were classified as permanent pasture but had the potential to support crops. Most of the 20 million hectares of land covered by forests and woodlands are believed to have agricultural potential.

Agricultural holding are small and scattered, and farming is carried out with simple tools, therefore, accounting that large-scale agriculture is not common. Agriculture contributed 32% to GDP in 2001, fluctuated between 42.13% and 40% in
2008 and 2012 (Nwuhuo, 2013). Thus, the country’s agricultural products fall into two main groups: food crops produced for home consumption and exports. Prior to the Nigerian civil war, the country was self-sufficient in food, but increased steeply after 1973. Bread made from American wheat replaced domestic crops as the cheapest staple food. The most important food crops are yams and manioc cassava in the south and sorghum and millet in the North. Cocoa is the leading non-oil foreign exchange earner but dominance of smallholders and lack of farm labour due to urbanization hold back its production. In 1999, Nigeria produced 145,000 tons of cocoa beans, but has the potential for over 300,000 per year while Rubber assumes the second-largest non-oil foreign exchange earner.

In Udenu Local Government of Enugu State, people engage in the production of certain products from Agriculture as their occupations, while some people engage in agricultural production for their families and never for sale as they get entangled with other jobs in the society such as government jobs, driving and so on. Therefore, the major branch of agriculture which the people of Udenu local government engage themselves apparently is subsistence and cash crop farming. The crops involved are: yams, cassava, melon, vegetables, palm oil, palm kernel, corn (maize), beans, cow nuts, cashew nuts, groundnut, honey, and rearing of animals like cows, goats, sheep, pigs, fowls and so on. In most communities of Udenu Local Government, the agricultural products such as palm oil, palm kernel, yams, beans, cashew nuts, cow nuts, honey, groundnuts, melon, and keeping of animals etc are found in their areas, and people over the decades have depended on them for survival as their major occupations (Okafor, 2011).
For Odo (2010), with the practice of farming, three children from agrarian family were trained to the university level. Therefore, Agriculture is a good occupation. An agriculture extension worker at Udenu local government in 2009 observes that 60% of the people enjoying good standard of living are the farmers.

However, the existence of land ownership system prevalence in Udenu Local Government like other local governments in the country has posed a lot of constraints for the people willing to engage in farming (Okafor, 2011). Also, Nweke (2010) argues that lack of incentives such as loans, fertilizers, pesticides, and effective orientations by the extension workers in which Udenu Local Government Administration over the years had paid little or no attention remains one of the major plights of farmers in the rural areas. He maintains that unless the attitude of government changes to those effects, the rural farmers will continue to live from hands to mouth. While recounting the nature of deplorable condition of roads and plights of farmers in Udenu Local Government, Charles (2012) in his book titled: *Agriculture and the Needs for Good Roads: Analyses of Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012* observes that the people of Udenu Local Government living in the rural areas are obviously finding it very difficult to make their ways freely to the farms during raining and drying season. Hence, their products usually end up wasted as a result of protracted erosion on the roads. Yet, the government seems so reluctant and adamant to come to their aids with the available economic sources in the local government. For more illustrations, see the figures below;
4.3 Markets/Other Commercial Services and Self-Reliance in Udenu Local Government

Usually, market means a place where buyers and sellers meet together in order to carry on transactions of goods and services. But in Economics, it may be a place, perhaps may not be. According to the Economics, market can exist even without direct contact of buyers and sellers. Hence, it is referred to an arrangement whereby buyers and sellers come in contact with each other directly or indirectly to buy or sell goods. Thus, the above statement indicates that face to face contact of buyers and sellers is not necessary for market. Example, in stock or share market, buyers and sellers can carry on their transactions through internet. So, internet here forms an arrangement and such arrangement also is included in the market.

On the basis of time, however, market is classified into the following:

- Very short period market
- Short period market
- Long Period market
Very long period market

On the basis of competition, market is classified into:

- Perfectly competitive market
- Imperfectly competitive market structure

These market structures widely differ from each other in respect of their features, prices and so on. Under imperfect competition, there are markets such as monopoly, duopoly, oligopoly and monopolistic competition.

On the basis of place, market is classified into:

* Local market or Regional market
* National market or country wide market
* International market or global market.

In Udenu local government, we talk about local market or regional market and national or country wide markets. And by extension, Udenu local government is more dominated by local or regional market than national or countrywide market. In Udenu local government, there are major local or regional markets within its jurisdiction such as:

* Obollo-Afor market
* Obollo-Eke Market
* Orie Orba Market
* Eke Amalla Market

**Obollo-Afor Market**

This is one of the major regional markets in Udenu Local Government. It is strategically located at the north zone of the Local Government in Obollo-Afor. It is very large in size and capable of hosting approximately 2.5 million people on daily basis.
Different commodities are being sold there which include perishable and non-perishable commodities. It equally has a section where different kinds of animals are being sold including cows, horses, cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and fowls etc. Agricultural products such as yams, cassava, groundnuts, palm oil and palm kernel, vegetables, beans, rice and the rest of them are also sold there.

It is pertinent to note that there are lot of factories and industries located in Obollo-Afor market such as; cashew processing industry, Bakery industry, vegetable oil production and banking industry and so on. Apart from the numerous products from agriculture, other commodities and factories/industries being sold and found existing at Obollo-Afor market on daily basis, there are other commercial services which have occupied spaces there as well. These other commercial services include; driving, Black-Smiting, buying and selling of goods and services, barbing and hair-dressing saloon, business centres such as selling of recharge cards and handset accessories to customers and the likes.

However, emphases on other major markets in Udenu local government such as; Obollo Eke, Orie-Orba and Eke-Amalla cannot assume much different from what is obtainable in Obollo-Afor market. The only significant different which differentiated Obollo-Afor from others is its strategical location. Obollo-Afor market is located along Federal Highway that connects all the travelers and heavy-duty lorries and luxurious buses moving from the Eastern part of Nigeria to the Northern Nigeria and vice-versa.

Normally, Obollo-Afor market at the bus-stops stays on and operates from morning to evening and from evening to the next day, while the travelers will be entertaining themselves from one joint to the other without problem. But for other markets mentioned
above with Obollo-Afor such as; Obollo-Eke, Orie-Orba and Eke-Amalla, their stories are not the same to that effect, in as much as, they share the same characteristics in terms of accommodating people and selling of various agricultural products, goods and the rest of them.

According to Abonyi, (2011), the rehabilitation of markets in Udenu local government, particularly Obollo-Afor market borne out of their contributions to the local government revenues and sustenance of self reliance they have been given to people. In his words, if you doubt me, go there you see something by yourself. People are always busy doing one thing or the other. Ordinarily, they should have been disturbing government for wants of jobs if they are not doing something to better their lives and become important persons in the society. Ikechukwu (2012) re-affirms the above assertion when he states that majority of people are unknown to the facts that they can be more fruitful to themselves and to the society, if they change their perceptions of giving pressures to the government for jobs, since there is none to offer by government of the day and look around in one of our markets to find something doing. For some people, they cannot look for job any more, unless the government who will employ them accepts to pay above fifty thousand naira (₦50,000.00) that normally get into their account every month through business.

In his own contribution, Oketa (2010) in Ogbonna (2011) notes that nobody with normal sense will have all it takes to be rich and chose to be poor. If there is, mind you, something is wrong somewhere. He argues that it the amount of money in one’s pocket that determines his purchasing power, business engagement, and his general standard of living. One embarks on lucrative business that leads to prosperity once the income
accessibility is made possible either in cash or kind. According to Ede (2009) in Jude (2010), people in the most rural areas of Udenu Local Government are roaming in abject poverty because they are not employed; and yet, there is no wherewithal to embark on any business to earn a living, while those underemployed are just managing their families. In the same vein, Prince Eze (2009) on the occasion of International Youth-Gay-Celebration in Udenu Local Government, asserts that the youth of the local government are undoubtedly scattered everywhere in the country in search of jobs and better lives.

For Agu (2010), one of the factors militating against the participation of people in doing business in our markets, especially the rural dwellers in Udenu Local Government is the attitudes of the revenue collectors whereby majority of the agents discharge their duties illegally to the regrets of the poor petty traders. In some cases, they inflict injury and all sort of damages to the helpless traders. He notes that this type of attitudes among the agents of government should be called to order, and advised that government should be more organized in dealing with people for whom it serves.

In all, we can now conclude based on the empirical evidence generated for this study concerning this section that markets and other commercial services in Udenu Local Government help to retain to some extends relative levels of self-reliance among the people, but fails to impact significantly to annul the fact that the available economic sources contributed inadequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

As stated early, this study investigated The Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A Case Study of Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria, 2007-2012. To achieve the above objective, the study formulated three hypotheses which include:

- The previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.
- The available economic sources contributed inadequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012. Thus, the above hypotheses are the derivatives of the questions raised initially in the statement of problem which were addressed properly in this work.

To be more connected, the study went for the utilization of Elite theory as the theoretical framework to analyze the behavior of two opposing groups (the ruling class and the ruled) in every society, in which case public policy always represents the preferences and values of the ruling class in Udenu Local Government. By so doing, the study appropriately adopted qualitative method as the method of data collection due to the fact that it cannot be easily or objectively amenable for empirical measurement and verifications. In the same vein, qualitative descriptive method was utilized as the method of data analysis.
As a matter of fact, the related literature for the work were reviewed in chapter one and the gaps therein identified respectively, while the three hypotheses formulated were tested in chapter two, three and four of this work accordingly before conclusion and recommendations assumed their proper positions.

5.2 CONCLUSION

After proper analyses were given to the hypotheses raised in chapter one; investigated and examined in chapter two, three and four of this work, it therefore, concludes that the previous administrations failed to provide adequate social amenities for the people of Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.

Secondly, it also establishes that popular disempowerment undermined the development of education in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.

And lastly, it concludes that the available economic sources contributed inadequately for the sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government, 2007-2012.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having come to this far, the study, therefore, recommends that Udenu local government administration should try to provide adequate social amenities for the people, especially at the rural area. If this is done, it will assure rural development in Udenu Local Government, which will in turn, encourage the young people to stay back instead of moving away from home to add to the problems of urban areas. On the other hand, low standard of living and sharp increase in rural-urban immigration will become the order of the day in Udenu Local Government.
Secondly, Udenu local government administration should also try to encourage popular empowerment and not disempowerment for more development of education to take place. Absence of popular empowerment has made individuals, groups and corporate bodies to abandon their obligatory roles for more development of education in Udenu Local Government to remain unimaginable. Undoubtedly, this will spell doom to the future of our children, even those unborn, if it continues.

In all, it should also ensure that the sources of revenue to the local government are increased in order to enhance more sustenance of people’s living in Udenu Local Government. This can be done by attracting investors to build factories and companies within the local government jurisdiction and the likes. A limited source of revenue is a limited economy which cannot rise to face the challenges of technological advancement that dominate the global village at moment.
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