THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF DELTA STATE.

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA.

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This research work has met the requirements of the Department of Political Science, for the award of Masters of Science Degree in Political Science faculty of the Social Science University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and is approved.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to

Eunice, Onyebuchi Olley.

And to all lovers of knowledge.
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ABSTRACT

The major concern of this research work is to assess the role of Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State in rural development of its constituent communities. In achieving this, the research work relies on descriptive approach and structured questionnaire and interview for data collection. A simple size of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents was used for the study. Our findings revealed that the council has not performed well in developing the rural areas over the years. Various recommendations were made based on the findings among such are, increase in revenue allocation by both Federal and State governments, serious commitment be made by such staff toward internally generated revenue and the use of direct labour (council engineers) in carrying out projects in place of contractors. Improvement of infrastructure by the councils is also recommended.
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CHAPTER ONE
BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The expediency for the creation of local government anywhere in the world stems from the need to facilitate development at the grassroots. The importance of local government is a function of its ability to generate sense of belongingness, safety and satisfaction among its populace. All forms of government, regimes or political systems have so far ensured the attainment of this goal. Such strategy for ensuring national administrative development and political efficacy is found in the concept and practice of local government. Whatever is the mode of government, local government has been essentially regarded as the path to, and guarantor of, national integration, administration and development.

In Nigeria's socio-political context, with multiplicity of culture, diversity of languages and differentiated needs and means, the importance of such an organization in fostering the needed national consciousness, unity and relative uniformity as well as preservation of peculiar diversities cannot be over-emphasized. Central to the creation of local government, however, is its ability to facilitate an avenue through which government and the people intermix, relate and more quickly than any other means resolve or dissolve issues that may have heated the system. Local government has been perceived as a panacea for the diverse problems of the diverse people with diverse culture.

As important as this tier of government has been, there seems to be some impediments that have been infringing on its performance and functions in recent times. These impediments range from political but undue interference of the higher
levels of government i.e. federal and state governments, bribery and corruption to embezzlement and gross inadequacy of well-trained and qualified personnel to mention a few.

According to Nnoli (1981:36) and Rodney (1972:11), all people have shown a capacity for independently increasing their ability to live more satisfactory life than before. This is then a progressive process that has no end.

A local government is semi-autonomous territorial unit created by the constitution or general laws of a state to undertake certain functions within specified or limited geographical area. According to Agbakoba (2004:3), a local government is a political and administrative unit that is empowered by law to administer a specified locality. It involves philosophical commitment to the idea of community participation in government at grassroots level. There is general assumption among scholars and practitioners, that local government are not only established as representative organ but also as a channel through which goods and services are delivered to the people within the framework of laws establishing them.

In fact, democracy itself originated and developed along the line of local government initiatives. This is why the executive, legislative and judicial arms of these governments are elected or appointed as the case may be. In Nigeria, local government is created to bring government closer to the people. The definition of local government by the Nigerian Federal Government leaves one with no iota of doubt that it is largely both theoretically sound and service oriented to the people. It talks of representative councils with substantial control over local affairs, for the provision of services and implementation of projects in their areas, to complement the activities of both the State and Federal governments. The definition also amply
recognizes the need for local government autonomy as the substantial control of local
governments is aimed at staff, institutional and financial matters, among others
(Nigeria, 1976). In addition to the above, the Nigerian Federal Government is one of
the few governments in the world perhaps in addition to Brazil (Erero, 1998) that
have elevated LGs to a third tier of government. By so doing, the State governments
do not exercise absolute controls over local governments.

Therefore, the work seeks to contribute in illuminating the actual status of
Warri North local government as regard community or rural development which it
purports to be raison d’etre of its existence. The empirical analysis will show whether
creation of local government is really for the sake of ensuring grassroots development
or mere political compensation for the government loyalists. It is in this light that we
chose to study the topic.
Specifically, the paper carefully, critically and objectively examines operational
definitions, local government, and development and opinion of the people expressed
through the print media about the impact of the Warri North local government council
in their areas. And of course, germane recommendations which emanate from the
study are provided for the improvement of local government in the development of
the localities/communities.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The need to catalyze balanced development, maximize citizens’ participation,
and arouse government response necessitates the creation of the local government.
The local government serves as a form of political and administrative structure
facilitating decentralization, national integration, efficiency in governance, and a
sense of belonging at the grassroots. The local government is a unit of administration
all over the world (Agagu, 2004).
Local government has been the root of development in terms of dealings with the people which democracy is centred upon. Hence, local government is visibly seen as co-agent of rural development and as partners in progress with both states and federal governments in rural developments.

To this end, this study sets out to investigate the impact of local government on rural/grass root development with emphasis on Warri North Local Government of Delta State. Knowing the roles the government needs to play in development of any society and the obvious inability of the national and state governments in the task of rural areas, Local government has been created essentially to compliment the efforts of the states and national government in the task of rural development. Nevertheless, abject poverty and underdevelopment remains a common feature in these rural communities.

Thus, in pursuance of the central problem in this research a number of questions have been raised (posed) for this research purpose. They are:

i) Has Warri North local government Area contributed substantially to rural development?

ii) Does Inadequacy of Skilled Workers (like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors etc) affect the ability Warri North local government council in carrying out rural development programme?

iii) Does inadequate financing of the local government by the state and federal government affect the ability of Warri North local government council to contribute to rural development?

1.3 Objectives of Study

The broad objective of this study is to assess the performance of Warri North local government council in the area of rural development.
The specific objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To ascertain whether Warri North local government has contributed substantially to rural development.

2. To find out if inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) affect the ability of Warri North local government council in carrying out rural development programme.

3. To verify whether inadequate financing by both state and federal governments hinders the council in carrying out developmental programmes.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the study provides a theoretical framework for the understanding of the role of local government in rural development in Nigeria. Therefore considering the pivotal role of local government in development in general, such information will be of immense help for policy formulation on the development of grassroots. The result of the study will equally be of help to other researchers who may want to research on such topic or related topics on development in the academia in the future.

On the practical significance, the study will draw attention of, and enlighten both the stakeholders and those who implement policies on rural development in Nigeria who may not really understand the central role of rural development on the crucial and inescapable role of local government system. As a result, the rural dwellers will endeavour to participate full in grassroots democratization and development, while those who implement policy on development in Nigeria will become dedicated to policy formulation, recommendations and implementation.
1.6 Operational Definition of Concept

Grassroots/Rural development: The term grassroots development as used in this study refers to the act or process of developing and empowering the well-being of the vast majority of the rural dwellers through the provision of basic social and economic infrastructures. Hence, it is a development from below. According to Todaro (1985) grassroots development is an advancement that makes life more meaningful in all its entirety. Whether political, economic, socio-cultural and infrastructural.

Rural Dwellers

Rural dwellers are the people living in the remote areas of a country and lack basic infrastructure like good road network, pipe borne water, electricity, good health facility etc. The term refers to the ordinary people who are far from political decision making process at the centre. These groups includes small scale farmers, tenants, etc who seek livelihood in the rural areas.

Democracy/local government

The term democracy “literally signifies” the rule of the people: the term democracy as it is used in the study synchronizes with Abraham Lincoln’s definition of democracy. Gauba (1981:421) quoting Lincoln and it reads: Democracy is the government of the people by the people and for the people. It implies that ultimate authority of government is vested in the common people so that the public policy is made to conform to the will of the people and to serve the interests of the people.

From the foregoing, one can rightly say that democracy is all about “peoples” participation in government–and local government. Therefore, Democracy and local government are inseparable and are synonymous.
1.7  Literature Review

1.7.1 Local Government and Rural Development

Communal effort has not been a recent phenomenon. It dates back to the time of primitive communalism when people searched for their living communally. In the early state of man, he always sought ways of conquering nature. Bryne (1983:55) argues that the concept of community development is not new, that rather it is an old ideology. The reality in Bentham’s assertion that community development is a man in the society can be sustained by the fact that communities throughout history constructed and maintained their roads, bridges, square, sunk their well for good drinking water supply, and constructed their markets, village churches and village halls by community efforts.

Lawal, (2008:56) community development is not new in Nigeria, that what is actually new nowadays in community development are techniques and methods through which new pattern of leadership emerges from the rank and file. Dare, (1989:38) in his own contribution argues that though local government is a veritable vehicle for community development, most local government have not made appreciate impact in this direction. He attributes the problem to the myriad of functions allocated to local government without commensurate financial backing.

Ogunna (1980:44) attributed the low performance of local government to the following factors; inadequate revenue, low executive capacity, poor and inadequate working materials, incompetence and ineptitude of existing staff and excessive control by the state government which result in delays and red-tapism. The solution, he suggested, lies in the review of the local government system particularly in areas of financial relationship with the state government and personnel. This control of local
government was made clear in the implementation, guideline on the application of the civil service. Reform in the local government service.

Okunade, (1988:).expressing his own idea, state that the spread of counties has provided the awareness among rural dwellers, and has provided the existence for a concept of the process of community development and of project which have been set in motion since the United National Organization development its concepts since thirty years ago. Community development draw greater inspiration from the desire for a change and in the ability of man to learn and charge through the voluntary method, (that is, free from coercion) and through the participation of individuals and groups in the development process for the achievement of some definite goals.

According to Sehinde, (2008:9) community development is:

A process of education by which people of all ages and interest in the community, learn to share their thoughts, their ideas, the participation, their joys and their sorrows and in a large measures to mould and shape the communal destiny for themselves. It is a process of self discovery by the while the people of a community learn to identify and solve their community problems. A firm grasp at their beliefs and value system will throw light on what the community accepts as good and bad, as right or wrong. In turn, changes achieved by community effort can influence the beliefs and value system of a community. It is necessary to stimulate the self-help spirit of the people by mobilizing them for communal efforts, which should be sustained with the assistance of the government. Blue Print for rural development, argues that for effective implementation of strategies for community development the town and community unions, age grades, etc should be linked with government. This idea he said is to involve the community people fully through their union, age grades and other similar policies that are designed to improve their economic, social, political and cultural development. He stated that this would enable them to make positive contributions to both rural and national development. The community union and age grade in every community have usually served as point of articulation and fully aware of the needs of the people. However, if they are fully integrated into the planning stage of development project, a lot will be achieved.
Writing on rural development in Nigeria, Mabogunje, (1992:191) in his book “leading issues in Nigerian Rural Development” accused successive Nigerian government at being previous regimes, rather than developing the rural areas. He content that this is the general pattern all over the third world countries. Mabogunje, remarked that many strategies such as “authoritarian hand out” from the administration which prescribed the facilities suitable for the rural areas and two, the so-called development from below have been tried in the past, in the attempt to solve rural poverty in Nigeria. These strategies have however not proved successful; he looks at rural development problem such as lack of co-ordinated community development programmes, manpower problems of infrastructure, problem of relevant rural education. He suggest solutions to these problems, which include clear understanding of the concept community development, an integrated development programmes, provision of infrastructure, relevance at rural education to the peculiar need and aspiration of the rural areas.

Local government and rural development in Nigeria, Olowo, et al., and (1991) describes government approach to rural development as a more sham. According to him, government has succeeded in imposing development programme on the rural masses, such programme he argues, only benefited a few rich and powerful urban elite. He calls for a model of rural development, which involves the genuine participation of the rural people. Such he continues will be relatively independent of centralized urban-oriented bureaucratic machines.

Nwaka, (1999:33-36) on his part argued that government imposition of rural development programme on the communities have been Cog in the wheal of rural development. As he put it, government have often set community development; priorities without the participation of the target or relevant communities. He suggests
that since government, communities are the engines of growth; government should play down its excessive control in betting out development goals and priorities for local communities.

Nnoli, (1980) sees self-help, as a strategy for rural development as a form of exploitation because, according to him, for the rural people it is viewed as the task resort to their survival due to government neglect. According to him, the community development process arises from the crying need of the rural population for social welfare services, unwillingness of the rural class to provide these amenities, the exploitation of the ruling class of the competition among communities for those social artefacts which are deemed to reflect social progress, and the exploitation by the ruling class at the tendency by Nigerians to invest more time, energy and resources and those tasks approved by their communities than those sanctioned by the national collectively via-the-state.

Okoli, (2000) in his book contends that the British colonialists in Nigeria hatched community development ideology in order to under develop the people through his negative manipulation strategy. He regrets that his strategy has continued to be employed by indigenous rulers in the post-colonial state. He further contends that this strategy predicated upon the colonial policy of economic exploitation of the local area in an instrument used to sustain the self-interest of the ruling classes while the rural communities suffer under poor, hash and stagnated conditions.

Aborisade (1988) in his book highlighted the various development programmes designed by successive governments in Nigeria, which aimed at developing the rural communities. He gives an example of River Basin and Rural Development Authorities established in 1975 to promote rural development. He laments that in practice the scheme bloated bureaucracies feeding on mega million
naira contracts for irrigation and other agricultural projects while the rural areas for which they are meant seemed to have recorded deeper in debilitating poverty.

Finally, from the extensive review of literature, it is obvious that scholars like Akpan, (1982), Olisa (1992) and Olowu (1988) regretted that rural development activities and programmes of the past decades of national independence have not transformed the country’s rural areas in the modern, well supplied contended that prosperous population envisaged are the beginning of national sovereignty. They concluded that in terms at the number of programmes identification pursued, rural development in Nigeria has made little transformatary impact. They cite basic social services, public utilities and essential infrastructure as still being woefully inadequate in almost all corners of the country.

1.7.2 Inadequate Finance and Rural Development

One of the perennial problems which has not only defied all past attempts at permanent solution, but also has a tendency for evoking high emotions on the part of all concerned (each time it is brought forth for discussion or analysis) is the issue of equitable revenue allocation in Nigeria. It is an issue which has been politicised by successive administrations in Nigeria both Military and civilian regimes. Indeed, in virtually all country in which the constitution shares power between the central and regional or state governments and, for each level to be “within a sphere co-ordinate and independent” (Wheare 1963:93) enough resources need be allocated to each tier to justify their existence.

Perhaps, more important at this juncture is a consideration of the adequacy of the total revenue profile of LGs, from all sources, for their operations. In the works of Ikelegbe, (2005) and Aghayere, (2008) they are of the view that local governments obtain adequate revenue for their operations. However, as Ikelegbe (2005:54), for
example, puts it, there is ‘tremendous strengthening of local government funding, structuring, autonomy and democratization. Adequate finance is an indispensible tool for local government administration and the execution of project for which it was not up.

According to Orewa (1968:225) the raison d’être of local authority is to collect it revenue efficiently and to use such revenue to prove many social service as possible for its tax payers while at the same time maintaining a reasonable amount reserve tide it over any period of financial stringency. Hence the ability of local authorities to generate revenue to manage it properly. Blau and Scout as a cited by Mukoro, (2001:1) in their local government have noted that they do not exist but in communities and societies and have roots in large social system.

Following from the foregoing, the basic environment of a local in Nigeria with regard to revenue generation can be identified based on the provision at chapter (vi) (c) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria which deals with public revenue and the fourth schedule there provides functions of a local government council section 162 (of chapter (vi) such section 3,5,6,7 and 8) provide that “Any amount standing to the credit of the federation account and shall be distributed among the federal and state government council in such state on such terms and in manner as may be presided by the National Assembly.

According to Okoli (1998:125), despite the elaborate provision made in both decree No. 36 of 1998 and 1999 constitution for the financial autonomy of the local government doubt still remains as to the financial relationships among the three tier of government for one thing the direct funding of the local government which has been jettisoned by the ambiguities in the provision of 1999 constitution as far as finance of the local government are concerned.
The financial crisis of most local government in developing counties is worsened by the fact that they are located in the rural areas. As a result of rural poverty, they are unable to generate enough internal revenue. They, therefore, rely mainly on statutory allocation from the federal government which is usually inadequate for any meaningful development activity. As aptly stated in the local government Yearbook (1998:18).

Adedeji (2000:96) asserts that the success or failure and the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of local government depends on the financial resources available to the individuals local authorities and the way the resources are utilized indeed the problem associated with inadequacy of finding continue to remain quite high among factors most frequently of local government to effectively perform their statutorily developed function.

Akpan, (1965:126) argued that the bottom line in judging the effectiveness of local government is the amount of funds at their disposal. He notes that “the success of a local authority is often measured in terms of its ability to provide services to the public. These services cost money”, which the local government do not have sufficiency.

Ogbonnia (2004:34) say’s that other sources of local government revenue depend on the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the council. He further explains that, there are several ways the council can generate funds but the major problems lies in the ability of the chairman to look inwards to create means of generating funds for the council.

The inadequacies of operational and capital funds constitute a set-back on local government implementation of regular services and investment programmes. Consequently, most local government can only pay workers salaries and take care of
recruitment expenditure. In the case of Nigeria, the financial crisis in the local
government has been worsened by the failure of the Federal Government to recognize
the new local government created by some states. The state governors new use part of
statutory allocations meant for the newly created ones, which in Enugu referred to as
development centres (Ezeani, 2004).

1.7.3 Paucity of Skilled Manpower and Rural Development

When we are talking about manpower, we are referring to human resources. Manpower
to often taken as the most important resources of an organization because
other resources are harnessed to meet the need to men. This problem has been a major
constraints to the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in Nigeria vis-à-vis
noted that at the inception of democratic local government system in the former Eastern
region of Nigeria in 1950, early recruits into the local government service were mainly “Sons of
the soil”. Orewa and Adewumi (1983) rightly stated that recruitment based on
patronage, have created problems of redundancy in local governments where stern
measures like termination of appointment and suspension of staff are rarely contemplated.

There is no doubt that the effectiveness of any organization to a large extent
depend on the calibre of its staff. The local government does not have enough
graduates employed in its services. The people who work in the local government are
employed based on favouritism and not on merit. Most of the staffs or the council
don’t know what is expected of them as local government staff. Most of them did not
go beyond primary school, and therefore cannot perform well. They don’t even know
the function of the department they found themselves let alone the work they expected to perform, and this contributes in affecting the rural development.

Staff training and development is another important aspect that has been neglected in local councils. According to Blum and Mayor (1976), effective training programmes can result in increased production, reduced labour turnover, and greater employee satisfaction.

The people who work in the community development department because of lack of skills for the nature of their job use wrong approach or measure in appealing to the communities to contribute and take part in community development.

According to Onah (1995:114), the inability to provide management training in areas of operations other than finance and general administration such as engineers, architects, accountant, doctors, nurses, agriculture extension workers etc continues to militate against effective performance in most local governments in Nigeria.

In an effort to address this quandary of manpower in terms of (skilled manpower like Engineers and Doctors and Administrators) in local government system in Nigeria, the federal military government in 1979 introduced three university-based Department of Public Administration and local government: University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ille-Ife Ezeani (2004:183-184).

This paper intends to study local government as an instrument of rural development and see if there has been any significant change in terms of the effect in Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The theory which informs our discussion of local government and rural development, a study of Warri North local government council is the general systems
theory. The scholar most associated with this theory is Easton (1965) “sees the political system as a set of interrelated and reciprocally regulated patterns of actions and orientation, pattern that cluster together in equilibrium and that have certain needs of maintenance and survival. It is a phenomenon of whatever type, including physical, biological, social, political, etc., which is an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it from the environment (supra system) in which it is located and with which it interacts, processing the inputs from it into outputs for it.

The general systems theory seeks to argue that every system, including political system, has subsystems which make up the entire system. They are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. Where this is the case, there is said to be homeostasis (stability) in the political system. On the other hand, instability reigns in the political system where the contrary is the case and the subsystems and entire system are also unable to function optimally.

Input and output analysis of a political system is very important. A political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour, etc.) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations.
Diagrammatic representation of David Easton’s System Analysis

**Source:** Gauba op, an introduction to political theory.

**Application of the theory**

Applying this theory of the systems analysis to the local government system, the local government system in the country constitutes the sub-system. They must be well handled in terms of being fed with adequate inputs, so that they can contribute appropriately to the optimality of the whole (country) political system, as well as its homeostasis. If the reverse is the case, that is, if the local government system do not have the required inputs to operate on.

According Apter (1963:15) the political system has two elements viz input (made up of demand support) and output (made up of authoritative decisions). By input, he meant those factors which emanated from the environment and go into decision making. They are those demands that come out from the society. Outputs are results that emanates from the demand and support made at the level of input.
Warri North local government council is a system which carries out these functions by receiving inputs from the people and converting it into output. The citizens are involved in such demands above. This demand on the system is in inform of appeal to the council authority to provide some basic infrastructure like good road network, pipe borne water, health facilities, ultra modern markets etc. Support on the other hand could be people’s participation in decision making process or voting in community development project as well as financial support, in form of tax, rates paid by the people including grant from Delta State and Federal Government of Nigeria. Though, this means they provide raw material on which the system acts, so as to produce output. This in turn will influence the environment of the system and consequently generate continued demand which in turn creates a feed back and the whole process continues on a cyclical pattern.

1.9 Hypothesis

In the light of the research question and of related literature, the following hypothesis will be tested:

\( H_1 \): Warri North local council has not contributed substantially to rural development in the local government area.

\( H_2 \): The inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of Warri North local government council in carrying out rural development programmes.

\( H_3 \): Inadequate funding by both the Delta State and the Federal Governments hinders Warri North Local Government council’s ability to carrying out developmental programmes.
1.10 Research Methodology

i. **Method of Data Collection**

According to Cohen and Manion (1980:26) methods, refer to the approaches used in research to gather data which are to be used as a basis for inference and interpretation for explanation and prediction. There is no doubt that the quality of data is inextricably tied to the methods and techniques used for gathering the data. Thus to generate relevant data for this study, we shall adopt observation technique. Obasi, (1999:169) Defined methodology as a purposefully planned and systematically executed act of watching or looking at the occurrence of events, activities and behaviour which constitute the subject of focus of research or study. The relevance of observation method to this study is obvious since it yield data that pertain directly to typical behavioural situations; assuming, of course, that they are applied to such situations (Selltiz et al, 1977:201). Through observation of political phenomena, accurate descriptions and better explanations of such phenomena are achieved (Ikeagwu, 1998:172).

The implication of this is that through observation, accurate explanation of the variables under study can be made. However, given the nature of this study especially the type of data required to interrogate our hypotheses, we will utilize primary (interview through questionnaire) and secondary sources of data. Secondary sources of data refer to a set of data gathered or authored by another person, usually information from the available data, archives, textbooks, journals, seminar paper, newspapers and magazines, internet printouts, government documents and other relevant documents on local government and rural development in Nigeria or survey results and code books collected for a purpose other than the present one (White,1983:233; Ikeagwu, 1998: 211; Asika, 2006: 27). As articulated by Selltiz et al, (1977: 317).
The advantages of secondary sources of data lie in the obvious fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. This makes the establishment of trends and consistent patterns over time possible. Again, the gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought.

ii. Instrument to be used:

The instrument used in collecting data for this study is questionnaire and oral interview. Although the major one will be the questionnaire. It will be used to elicit pertinent information from the subjects. The questionnaire has two sections. Section A will be used to entail the personal characteristics of the respondents while section B will help to elicit information about local government and community development in Warri North local government area.

iii. Population of the Study:

The Population of this study is drawn from all the sixteen (16) communities that make-up the Warri North local government. These communities includes the following; Okifamba, Opuama, Gbokoda, Ugoge-Egbin, Ajagbodudu, Ogheye, Abigborodo, Ajaolubgeti, Idebagbene, Ugogoegbin, Ogobudugbudu, Oboghoru, Tsekelewu, Koko Beach, Ebrohimi, and Koko town, The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 137,300.

iv. Sample Size

For this study, the researcher adopted the convenient sampling technique in selecting the respondents. From a total of 137,300 population for the local government, according to the 2006 National Census figure, the researcher adopted a sample size of 150. This is less than 5% of the entire population of the local government. This choice is informed by Nwana (1981) submission as cited in Okoro (2001, p. 69) that ”if the
population is a few hundreds, a 40% or more sample will do; if many hundreds, a 20% sample will do; if a few thousands, a 10% sample will do and if several thousands, a 5% or less sample will do. The population of this study runs into several thousands and that is why a less than 5% sample is considered appropriate.

v. Sampling Technique:
As stated earlier in this discussion, the study included itself to simple Random Sampling to draw the population of the study. The use of simple random sampling helped to elucidate the research analysis. Simple Random Sampling gives equal chances of opportunity to the entire Universe in the population and reduces the rate errors.

v. Method of data Analysis
For the analysis of data, we will rely on qualitative descriptive analysis. Asika (2006:118) defines qualitative descriptive analysis to mean summarizing the information generated in the research verbally so as to further discover relationships among variables. The adoption of the foregoing analytical method becomes necessary since the study will rely principally on secondary sources of data.

The researcher used simple percentage, tables and descriptive statistical method in analysis.

vi. Validity and reliability of the instrument:
The instrument was validated, which means that the questionnaires were given to the supervisor and were thoroughly vetted. After going through them, corrections and suggestive directions were made. To ensure reliability of the instrument used for this study, a pilot text was conducted using twenty five people from Warri North local government council and twenty five people from the communities. This also will help to check the ambiguities of the questions before administering it to the actual subjects.
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CHAPTER TWO
HISTORY AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 Evolution of Local Government in Nigeria

The precursor of local government was the native administration established by the colonial administration. As one of its principal authors posited, Native Administration was: Designed to adapt to purposes of local government the tribal institutions which the native people have evolved for themselves so that the latter may develop in a constitutional manner from their own past, guided and restrained by the traditions and sanctions which they have inherited, moulded or modified as they may be on the advice of the British officers. It is an essential feature of the system, within the limitations, the British Government rules through these native institutions which are regarded as an integral part of the machinery of Government with well defined powers and functions recognized by Government and by law and not dependent on the caprice of an executive officer (Cameron 1934).

The Native Administration was charged with the collection of taxes, maintenance of law and order, road construction and maintenance, and sanitary inspection, especially in township areas. This system of government, which was modelled after the Millsian ideal of local representation, generated two types of conflicts among the fledging ethnic groups in Nigeria. The first arose in cases where two or more ethnic groups were ‘lumped together’ in one native administration. Given what Post and Vickers (1973) have aptly called the ‘differential incorporation’ of Nigerian peoples into Nigeria, some groups who had earlier access to the British and had acquired some education tended to dominate the Native Administration. If such domination could be justified, as the British did, on the
grounds of the opportunity it afforded the privileged group to groom others in the art of governance, the superimposition of the paramount ruler of one group as permanent native authority even when there was no pre-colonial history of dependent relations, encouraged local separatism. Most of the groups joined in such non-consensual matrimony agitated for separation and independence.

Regardless of nomenclature, local government is a creation of British colonial rule in Nigeria. It has overtime experienced change in name, structure and composition. Between 1930s and 1940s, for instance, local government was known as chief-in-council and chief-and-council, where traditional rulers were given pride of place in the scheme of things. In the 1950s, election was introduced according to the British model in the western and eastern parts of the country with some measure of autonomy in personnel, financial and general administration Nwabueze, (1982:20-21).

It was on this premise that the rising tide of progress, growth and development experienced in the local governments in these areas was based. The pace of this development was more noticeable in the south than in the north.

During this period, heterogeneity was the hallmark of local government as there was no uniformity in the system and the level of development was also remarkably different. The introduction of 1976 reforms by military administration of General Obasanjo brought about uniformity in the administrative structure of the system. The reforms introduced a multi-purpose single-tier local government system (Ajayi, 2000:70).

As Igbuzor, (2005:147), noted “in 1976, the federal government embarked in collaboration with the state government embarked on extensive reform on which were outlined as follows:-
a) To make appropriate services and development activities responsive to local wishes and initiatives by devolving or delegating them to local representative bodies.

b) To facilitate the exercise of democracy self-government close to the Grass root of our society.

c) Mobilization of human and materials through the involvement of members of the public in their local government.

d) To provide a two way channel of communication between local government (both state and federal)

For the first time in history of local government in Nigeria a uniform system was developed for the whole country. According to the then chief of staff, supreme headquarters, Brigadiers Shehu Yardua in his forward to the reform stated thus, “Was essentially motivated by the necessity to stabilize and nationalize government at the local level.

Unlike the previous reform measures which were restricted in scope and range. The 1976 local government reform conceptualized local government as the third tier of government operating within common institutional framework. The intentions of 1976 reforms were debated by the constitution drafting committee (CDC) and the constituent assembly in 1978 and were enshrined in the 1979 constitutions. The Dasuki reform of 1984 and 1988 reform further consolidated the position of local government in the country. Hence, they have all been in corporate in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria 1999. The reform went further to enshrine the principle of participatory democracy and of political responsibility to every Nigerian.
The reforms also introduced population criterion under which a local government could be created. Consequently, a population of within 150,000 to 800,000 was considered feasible for a local government. This was done to avoid the creation of non-viable local council and for easy accessibility. There was provision for elective positions having the chairmen as executive head of local government with supervisory councillors constituting the cabinet. This was complemented by the bureaucrats and professionals, such as Doctors, Engineers, etc., who were charged with the responsibility of implementing policies (1976 Guidelines).

In 1991, a major landmark reform was introduced as the system had legislative arm. In addition, the Babangida administration increased the number of local government from 301 in 1976 to 453 in 1989 and 589 in 1991. The Abacha regime also increased the number to 774 local councils that we have today and the administrative structure also underwent some changes (Ajayi, 2000:71).

In summary, it can be said that no public institution in Nigeria has been so subjected to frequent reforms than local government. Nearly every successive administration introduces one administrative change or the other. Apart from the celebrated 1976 reforms, state government officials have also introduced various manipulations.

2.2 History of Warri North Local Government Council

Environment, according to Igwe (2005:138) is the context in which a phenomenon, whether natural or human exists and operates, which not only establishes the boundaries and other condition for development but also its functions in the context of the wider environment. Warri North local government is one of the (25) twenty five local government areas of Delta state. Igbuzor opined that it was established as a full fledged local government from 1976 local government reform (Igbuzor, 2005:145).
In 1991, the Babangida administration created Delta State as one of the nine new states in 1991. However, against the expectations of the proponents of the state, some parts of Benin Province were joined to Delta Province to make up the new state and the headquarters of the state was located in Asaba which was under Benin Province.

Warri local government was divided into two local government areas, Warri South and Warri North local government areas Koko; an Itsekiri town became the headquarters of the Warri North local government. Koko town is known with the ancient palace Nana Olomu who had earlier contact with the Europeans in the 19th century. The local government is made up of both Itsekiri and Ijaw Oil producing communities. Moreover, although the Itsekiri and Ijaw respectively had 11 and 9 wards in the LGA, most of which are situated along river side. Making development activities almost impossible as a result of no good access roads (Ogafere 2005).

As a result of the new Local Government created by the Abacha’s regime resulted to ethnic crisis between the Ijaw’s, Itsekiri, that led to the lost of lives and properties in the area. Thus, the Warri North Local Government Council Secretariat was not left out. In 2003 the council was burnt down as a result of the crisis making the council to lose its important documents, in 2005 the council broken into by thieves and they removed important document most especially financial documents.

**Geography/Location**

Warri North local government council lies 30 miles from the sea on the landward margins of the mangrove swamp of the Western Niger Delta, sharing boundary in the east with Ologbo in Edo state, north Oghara in Ethiope West local Government Area of Delta State. Koko the head quarter was developed as a colonial
town as European firms established factories and the British colonial administration established a vice-consulate there in 1891 (Lloyd 1974:227).

**Sociology & Composition**

The local government and its constituent communities is organized in families, clans, villages and communities. Family is the smallest unit of organization followed by clan village and community in ascending order. As it concerns the leadership, there is head, clan head and the family head representatives which constitute the executives. There is traditional ruler who is the symbol of modern state in the community (Ugwuoke, 2005:32).

The local government comprised of predominantly Itsekiri, Ijaw and with minor tribes other languages such as Urhobo, Yoruba and Edo speaking tribes.

**Economy**

The inhabitants of Warri North Local government council are predominant farmers and small proportion who derives their livelihood from petty-trading, hand craft and white collar jobs. There are farmers of both crops and livestock. Palm wine tapers, government and private sector workers etc. Agricultural activities are carried out essentially for subsistence and commercial purposes.

Hence, we believe that with the above over view of the environment of Koko, it has provided an adequate ground for assessment of the impact of democracy on grass root development. Therefore, it is very pertinent we proceed to the impact of local government on rural development in the next section.

**2.3 The Organizational Structure of Warri North Local Government Council**

Decrees 23 and 50 of 1991 provided for a separate Executive Arm of the Local Government distinct from the Local Legislative Council. The Executive Arm consists of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Supervisors and a Secretary appointed by the Chairman.
We now turn to discuss the organizational structure of Warri North Local Government council.

Organization chart of local government.


Chairman of the Local Government

Prior to December 1987, each Local Government Council was required to elect its chairman from amongst the elected councillors for a term co-terminus with that of the Council, and this was subject to the approval of the state governor and in some cases, as was the case in the defunct Bendel State, the Governor is merely informed through the Commissioner for Local Government. This position changed just before the December 12, 1987 local government elections when provision was
made for the Chairman who has a Deputy to be directly elected by the people. The Chairman is the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Local Government. He functions with the assistance of his Deputy, Supervisors and Secretary appointed by him.

**The Vice Chairman of the Local Government**

The aspirant for the office of Local Government Chairman nominates a Vice as his running made before the actual campaign for Local Government elections kicks off. The success of a particular aspirant for the office of Local Government Chairman at the poll automatically means the success of his vice Chairman at the poll. The Chairman of the Local Government is required to assign specific responsibilities for any business of the Local Government to the Vice Chairman.

**Secretary to the Local Government**

The 1976 Local Government Reform provided for a Chief Executive Officer who is the Administrative Head of the local Bureaucracy. He is designated Secretary to the Local Government Council. He is required to be a high ranking official not below salary grade level 12. Recent reform efforts have brought about changes not in the mode of appointment, but also in the tenure of Secretary to the Local Government. The Secretary to Local Government is now appointed by the Chairman of Local Government and holds office at the pleasure of Chairman.

The Secretary provides political and administrative direction to the local bureaucracy as a whole. He is also responsible for advising the Local Government generally helping the Chief Executive to ensure that the programmes and decisions of the Local Government are implemented.
Supervisors

Prior to 1991, supervisory councillors (as they were called) were elected from among the elected members of local government council. The 1976 guidelines for local government Reform provided that the number should normally exceed four. The spate of reforms since 1976 has about phenomenal changes. The nomenclature “Supervisory councillor” has been changed to “Supervisor” A supervisor is now nominated by the Chairman of the Local Government from outside the local legislative council subject to the approval of the local council Where a member of the local legislature is appointed to the position of Supervisor, he/she will have to vacate his seat as a councillor. This requirement was occasioned by the fact that the legislative and executive arms of the Local government are now distinct organs.

Supervisors, like the supervisory councillors of old are primarily responsible for the political direction and general policy of the government with regard to such departments assigned to them including the administration of any department or departments as the case may be. They are responsible to the chairman of the local government.

The Executive Committee of the Local Government

Each Local Government in the country has a Cabinet which is the executive committee at the local level. The Executive committee is composed of the chairman of the Local Government and his vice, the supervisors and the secretary to the Local Government. Heads of Departments also attend and its meetings. The Executive committee is responsible for determining the general direction of the policies of the Local Government co-ordinating the activities of the local government, and charging the executive functions of the local government.
The Bureaucratic Component of Local Government

There are three important aspects of the bureaucratic setup of local government in the country. The first is the Head of Personnel Management of the local bureaucracy. The heads of the various departments constitute the second aspect. The third is the subordinate personnel. These three aspects are examined below:

Head of Personnel management

The Head of Personnel Management under the present arrangement, strictly speaking is the highest official of the local bureaucracy, now that the office of the Secretary to the Local Government is now politicised and the position is filled appointment from within or outside the Unified Local Government Service by the Chairman.

He works closely with the Secretary to the Local Government and helps to co-ordinate the work of the various heads of departments as well as seeing to personnel matters in the Local Government as a whole. In the performance of duties, he is responsible to the Secretary to the Local Government.

Heads of Local Government Departments

Below the Head of Personnel Management in Warri North Local Government in hierarchical set-up of the Local Government Department, Heads of Departments. They are responsible for executing policies and programmes of the Local Government at departmental level. They are also responsible for co-ordinating the work of the sections under them.

The Subordinate Personnel

The subordinate personnel consist of those officers who are either under the Heads of Departments or the sectional heads and are responsible to their individual heads of departments or sectional heads. This category of personnel perform the duties assigned them by the officers they are responsible to.
The Personnel System

All staff of the Local Government belongs to the Unified Local Government Service. Appointments, posting, prom discipline, etc of the senior members of staff is done by Local Government Service Commission appointed by the State Government. To supplement the staff available to the Local Government under the Unified Local Government Service, provisions exist in the various Local Government Service, provisions exist in the various Local Government Laws in the country for officers belonging to the State Civil Service to be posted to the Local Governments on secondment. During the period of secondment, seconded officers are required to abide by the rules and regulations of the Unified Local Government Service and also to work in consonance with the decisions of the Local Government they are posted to serve. Local Governments can also utilize the technical staff of the state agencies by way of seeking technical advice and assistance.
References


CHAPTER THREE

Warri North Local Government and Rural Development

This chapter assesses the impact of Warri North council on the development of the communities that constitute the local government council. The assessment is strictly based on its constitutional functions, according to the 1999 constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria. All data for the assessment of the impact are derived from field observation carried out by the researcher himself.

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the people in the rural areas. The main concern in rural development is supposed to be modernization, isolation to integration with the national economy for equitable and balanced development of the nation. It is against the backdrop of the above definition of rural development that we shall try to investigate the extent Warri North local government council has been able to develop the rural areas.

i. Provision of Health Services.

Health they say is wealth. Warri North local government is unmindful of the need to improve upon its health care delivery system. The study actually reveals non-performance in health sector as can be showcased within the year 1999-2007 by the local government. Based on the study carried out within the selected communities that make up Warri North, it will show absence or lack of basic health care services.

The first in the list of communities is Koko Health Centre and maternity which was recently (2010) built under the present administration and commissioned; the health centre is divided into what they call maternity ward and cottage hospital. The cottage hospital has one doctor who visits weekly it is only managed by few nurses when there is a serious case the patient is referred to Oghara or Benin as the case may be. When there is need for bed, they will make use of one in the maternity ward
The maternity ward contains 10 beds for mothers and three beds for children generally, the local government did not finance or execute any project in the health centre between 1999 to 2007, except drugs which they supply and the health centre return the cost to local government after selling each delivery. The building of health centre needs some rehabilitation, because some parts of the roofs leaks water and some already in tittered shape. That fact is that the people of Abigborodo community largely depends on health services outside the community (Sapele), for those who can afford such, it need to be addressed, yet Local Government is lackadaisical about it. To say the fact, with the enthronement of democracy in 1999, no much improvement had been achieved in health sector.

Other health centres in Warri North local government council includes Koko Beach, General Hospital. Generally, in most of the Warri North local council, there is lack of health delivery system since the enthronement within the year 1999-2010. Prior to this year of study some hospital was non-existent, but in the community, that is the only health centre available. It only heath week programme that was conducted in some communities, according to the council boos Ebosa, who disclosed this during the health programme held in five communities Okifamba, Opuama, Gbokoda, Ugoge-Egbin and Ajagbodudu, said the programme was very successful. (Ahon, 2010).

ii. **Provision of Education.**

Education is very important in the development of any society or community. In fact, any society that neglects education is doomed to perpetual hardship, and backwardness. Thus, John Dewey (quoted in Okolo 1993:22) avers that the task of education is an emancipation and enlargement of experience. According to Plato with a good system of education almost any improvement is possible.
This means that the standard of education provided by the total authorities determines the future life pattern and thought process of its inhabitants presently. Warri North local government has sixteen primary schools, out of these number, only five classrooms was known to have been built by the local government council. The rest were built by the various communities and religious organization and renovated by the state government.

Despite obvious role of education in development of any society, Warri North local government according to our findings, did not execute project in educational sector from 1999–2009 specifically, the area of Adult education and vocational education, three centers are functioning in Koko community and funded by a nongovernmental education centers.

In terms of primary school, for instance, in Ajaolubgeti community, there is one functional primary school but need to be rehabilitated in one way or the other.

iii. Agriculture

It is an undisputable fact that Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of almost all rural communities. This is reflected in the over view of the economy of Warri North local government. In spite of this immense contribution of Agriculture to both rural and national development. The investigation we carried out reveals that that the local government did not initiate any project on Agricultural development of the constituent communities between 1999 to 2009. The people continue to farm with crude implements and without any modern methods and chemicals provided. Not even provision of fertilizer at subsidized price alone on till in July, 2009 when he (chairman) distributed 50 fishing out-board engine boats as well as N50,000 cash each to beneficiaries of his empowerment scheme in line with his reform agenda. While reading his address, Dr. Ebosa pointed out that the effort of developing the
local government area should not be left solely to the council. His words: “The
development of Warri North is a task I am dedicated to with the resources available to
the council. But even at that, as a local government, the development of the local
government is not something the council can do alone.”

The council chairman emphasized that the private sector is a significant factor
that could give faster pace to the economic and developmental effort of the local
government. “The business opportunities here are enormous and I call on captains of
industries and individual entrepreneurs to take advantage of it,” Dr. Ebosa said.
(Gumm, 2009).

iv. Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Street Lightings.

The condition of roads and streets are very important yard stick of measuring
development of any community or society because they do not only enhance
communication but improve their productive capacity.

Observation carried out indicates that Warri North local government between
1999 to 2010 did nothing in the area of road construction and maintenance. For
instance, in major Roads in the constituent communities of the local government are
impassable and beyond repair most especially during the raining season as a result of
topography of the area. The only road constructed within the time frame of this study
is Oghey-Koko road carried out by former administration and now under dualization
by NDDC which up-till now has is uncompleted and the road from Sapele to
Abigborodo constructed by the governor of Delta State to the community which
happens to be his home town, more so as a result of the most communities in the area
of not motorable but can only be travelled to through boat the council constructed
wood walkways in. In the area of street light nothing at all have been done in most of
the community except Koko because of tourist center located there (Nana Palace) jetty port located there.

v. Construction of Market

There are various markets in Warri North local government area. It is one of the variables to assess the impact of democracy towards rural development. The outstanding among the market in the various communities is modern Koko market. It is located in the heart of the local council. The market have been operating with community efforts but the

Local government is executing or constructing ultra modern and upgrading the Koko market to international standard. That is encouraging. Prior to the practice of democracy in the local council in 1999 to 2010, Ngwu (2005:32) posits that there were occasional village markets every four days, but the enthronement of democracy paved way for construction of ultra-modern markets in the respective communities.

Considering the fact that grassroots development or development from below has been widely claimed to be viable strategy of national development. Therefore, it is right to posit that local government has shown that it is only interested in sharing the national cake but does not make effort in baking the national cake. Clark (2007:68) asserts that development strategy in Africa was compounded because of lack of democracy, discipline and bureaucracy. As well as private sector was not given serious attention. Abah (2000:155) holds that the problem of urban centres can not be solved unless rural areas are first solved. He maintains that urban migration is dysfunctional to rural development and need to be stemmed. It is undoubted that one of the lack of development projects in Warri North local council will be urban rural migration which does not only underdeveloped the communities but also hinders national development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Level of Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construction and equipping of a modern health centre.</td>
<td>Koko</td>
<td>Fifteen million naira.</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>a. Construction of 1km wood walkway.</td>
<td>Asatuagbene (Ogobudugbudu)</td>
<td>Two million naira.</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Construction of 0.5km wood walkway.</td>
<td>Opuama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Construction of 4km wood walkway, flyover and jetties.</td>
<td>Linking Oghey, Ugogoeyin and Obogo</td>
<td>Seven million naira</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Construction of 7 conveniences (Toilets)</td>
<td>Tsekelewu</td>
<td>Two hundred thousand naira</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Recreation jetty for relaxation.</td>
<td>Front of the local government</td>
<td>Two hundred thousand naira</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>council secretariat</td>
<td>Koko</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Construction of twelve lockup stores.</td>
<td>Koko</td>
<td>1.5 million naira.</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A canopy jetty market.</td>
<td>Koko</td>
<td>One thousand naira.</td>
<td>Completed and commissioned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


An interview with Emiko Buwa, staff and member internal revenue drive for the council.
CHAPTER FOUR
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation

This chapter presents a detailed analysis and interpretation of the data obtained through questionnaires administered on the assessment of the role of local government in rural development using Warri North Local Government Council of Delta State as a study area. In order to empirically evaluate the stated hypothesis that;

(i) Warri North local council has not contributed substantially to rural development in the local government area.
(ii) The inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of Warri North local government council in carrying out developmental programmes.
(iii) Inadequate funding by both the Delta State and the Federal Governments hinders Warri North local government council’s ability in carrying out developmental programmes.

Analysis Procedure

The presentation and analysis of data generated for this study are presented in tables; each table represents and test the hypothesis. The analysis is based on the research instrument distributed to 50 staff’s and 100 members of the communities in the local government area of Warri North local government area of Delta State, with a 100% return rate.
SECTION A
GENDER, AGE, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND RELIGION
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS.

Table 4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table above shows the gender distribution of 150 respondents. It is clear that 58.7% were females, while 41.3% were males.

Table 4.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 and above</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table reveals that the respondents between 18-25 years have the highest distribution with 56.7% while those who were between 27 and above is 43.3% of the total respondents.

Table 4.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011
From the above table, one can conclusively say that out of 150 respondents, 100 or 66.7 were single while 50 accounting for 33.3% were married.

**Table 4.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Qualification</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSCE</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCE/OND</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HND/B.Sc</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

The table above depicts that 50% percent were respondents with Senior School Certificate (SSCE), 46.7% are those with NCE/OND Certificates while 20% percent are those with B.Sc and HND Certificates of Degree.

**Table 4.5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

The table above shows the religion distribution of respondents. It obvious that 66.7% percent were Christians, while 13.3% of the respondents were other religions.
SECTION B

HYPOTHESIS ONE

H₁: WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CONTRIBUTES SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS RURAL AREAS?

Table 4.6

Opinions of the respondents on the main aim of establishing Warri North Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No of Respondent</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the table above, 132, respondents which represents (88%) of the total respondents are of the view that the aim of establishing the local government if to bring development to the rural people, 15 respondents accounts for (10%) are of the view that the creation of local government is meant to bring development to the people while 3 or (2%) of the respondents is undecided in the issue.

Table 4.7

Opinions of the respondents on Warri North Local Government Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.2 shows that 15 respondents (10%) of the total respondents agreed that the Warri North Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas. This is followed by 105 or (70%) percent who said no that the council has not fulfil it obligations towards rural/grassroots development of the communities that made up the council area, while 30 respondents accounting for 20% percents remains undecided. Finally, from the analysis of the responses it clear that Warri North local government council has not contributed substantially towards rural development.

**Table 4.8**

**Opinions of the respondents in what ways have Warri North Local Government Council contributed to rural development?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding of projects in the rural areas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering the rural people economically</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering the rural people politically</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of amenities for the betterment of the rural areas</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011
Table above indicates that 105 respondents representing 70% percents of the total respondents disagreed or says that the local government have not contributed to rural development in either funding of projects in the rural areas, empowering the rural people economically, empowering the rural people politically, provision of amenities for the betterment of the rural areas, and 15 which accounts for 10% percents says that the council has contributed in the provision of basic amenities in the area.

Table 4.9
Opinions of the respondents on what amenities are provided by the local government in your area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorable Road</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Centre</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood walkways</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canopy Jetty Market</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the table above, 5 respondents which represent 3.3% of the responses agreed that the council have provided water, and electricity and school, 3 that 2% says they have motorable roads, and health centre while 10 respondents representing 6.6% which comprises those living in the riverine areas of the local government agreed that the local government have provided wood walkways for them. 177 or 78% of the total respondents totally disagreed (none of the above) that the council have not provided
any basic amenities in their communities. From the foregoing it deduced that though the council have little but need to more in the area of provision of basic amenities.

**Table 4.10**

Opinions of the respondents on, can the council alone bring about the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospitals, schools, roads and farming equipments?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

From table 4.5, 30 respondents (20%) percent of the respondents are of the view that the local government council alone can bring the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospital, schools, roads and farming equipments. On the contrary 100 accounting for 66.67% of the respondents are of that the council alone can not alone bring the needed development of her rural areas. While 20 or (13.33%) of the respondents remains undecided on the question. Thus, it is clear that only the council can not bring the needed development of her communities.
Table 4.11

Opinions of the respondents on, does the council have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>53.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

On the question does the council have tractors and caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture, 40 of the respondents representing 26.67% percent are of that the council have tractors and caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture, 80 accounting for 55.33% percent totally disagreed, while 30 respondents (20%) is undecided as to whether the council has caterpillars and tractors of not.

Based of the responses above the, hypothesis is rejected based on the empirical verification gathered, which shows Warri North local government council has not contributed very well toward rural/grassroots development going by the responses gotten from the respondents as analysed below. Thus a null hypothesis is accepted which states that Warri North local government council does not contributes substantially towards the development of its rural areas.
HYPOTHESIS TWO

$H_0_2$: THE INADEQUACY OF SKILLED WORKERS (LIKE QUALIFIED ENGINEERS OF ALL TYPES, MEDICAL DOCTORS, ETC) AFFECTS THE ABILITY OF WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL IN CARRYING OUT DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES.

Table 4.12

Opinions of the respondents on, does Warri North Local Government Council have the following skilled workers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountants</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrators</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the above data, it is revealed that the council have the needed manpower (skilled workers) as indicated by the responses (Yes) of the respondents in all the options given.
Table 4.13

Opinions of the respondents on, are the skilled workers like Administrators, Engineers, and Doctors enough to engineer the necessary development of the area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the table above, 90 respondents, representing 60% identified that the council have skilled but they are not enough to engineer the necessary development of the area, while 60 respondents accounting 40% was undecided as to whether the skilled workers are enough.

Table 4.14

Respondents opinions on, do you think that none usage of the council artisan’s engineers to use of contractors slows the pace of development in the area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The data collected revealed that 100 respondents or 66.67% identify that manpower in the council are used rather the council prefer to contractors and this slows down the pace of development, as most contract are abandoned as a result of kickbacks, 20 respondents representing 13.33% said no, in other words the none
usage of the council artisan’s and engineers does not slow the pace of development in
the area. While 30 of the respondents remained undecided.

Responses from the data analysed, the hypothesis is rejected based on the
empirical verification gathered, which shows that the inadequacy of skilled workers
(like qualified engineers of all types, medical doctors, etc) affects the ability of Warri
North local government council in carrying out developmental programmes, but that
the none usage on the manpower (skilled workers like qualified engineers of all types,
medical doctors, etc) is the cause of slow pace of development in the area. Thus a null
hypothesis is accepted.

**HYPOTHESIS THREE**

**H₀₃: INADEQUATE FUNDING BY BOTH THE DELTA STATE AND THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS HINDERS WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL’S
ABILITY IN CARRYING OUT DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES**

**Table 4.15**

**Respondent's opinions on, at Present, would you say that Warri North Local
Government Council is well funded by the State and Federal governments?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>56.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey, 2011**

From the above data, it is revealed that at present the local government council
is not well funded by both the State and Federal government. 85 of the respondents,
which represent 56.67%, gave no as their response, while 45 or 30% percent of the
total respondents agreed that the local government council is well funded and 20
respondents accounting for 13.33% percent remained undecided to the well funding of the council by both the State and Federal governments.

Table 4.16

Respondents’ opinions on, the lack of funding of Warri North Local Government Council affects her developmental strides in the rural areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

This question was designed to find out if lack of funding of the Warri North local government council affects her developmental strides in the rural communities. From the above table 90 or 60% of the respondents identified or agreed that lack of funding affects the developmental strides council in the rural areas, 10 of the respondents representing 6.67% said no, that the lack of funding will not affect the developmental strides of the council, while 50 or 33.33% of the total respondents is undecided in their opinions.
Table 4.17

Respondents opinions on, the poor state of roads, schools, market, and farming in the council area is occasioned by inadequate funding by the Federal and State governments?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>58.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>41.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no of Respondent</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

As shown in the table above, it is revealed that 88 or 58.67% of the total respondents are of the view that the poor state of road, schools, farming and markets is occasioned by the inadequate funding by both the State and Federal governments, as result of inadequate funding the council only ends up in paying workers salaries, which led to the bad state of the roads and other infrastructures in the council area, 62 of the respondents accounting 41.33% of the total respondents disagreed that the poor state of infrastructure in the council area is not occasioned by the inadequate funding of the council.
Table 4.18

Respondents’ opinions on, what sources are available for generating revenues by the council internally?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenement rates from markets/stores</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticketing at parks</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing fees</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of stickers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water ways rates</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other levies</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>150%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total No of Respondent 150 100%

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the table above as the respondents opinion on what sources are available for the council for generating revenues internally, the respondents agreed that the option given are available to the council for revenue generation. But in an interview with a member of the committee on internally generated revenue Mr. Buwa Emiko, said that the council is not serious in pursue of revenue that is why she lacks finance more so most her communities are located along the rivers.

Table 4.19

Respondents’ opinions on, do you think that the council generates enough revenue internally?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22.66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total No of Respondent 150 100%

Source: Field Survey, 2011
On the opinion of the respondents on if the council generates enough revenue internally, 100 respondents representing 66.67% of the total respondents said (No) that the council does not generate enough revenue internally, while 34 or 22.67% of the respondents agreed that the council generate enough revenue internally and 16 respondents accounting for 22.66% of the respondents are undecided in their opinions.

**Table 4.20**

**Respondents opinions on, how would you describe the local council’s drive for internally generated revenue?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>No of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Satisfactory</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total no of Respondent</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

On the respondents’ opinion on how they will describe the council drive for internally generated revenue, 93 of the respondents which represent 62% of the total respondents are of the view that it is Not Satisfactory, and in the interview Mr. Buwa said that the un-seriousness is the order of the day. 47 or 31.33% of the respondents are of the view that it is satisfactory; while 10 respondents representing 6.67% responses are undecided. From the analysis above it is clear that Warri North local Government Council derive for internally generated revenue is not satisfactory and this is occasioned by her un-seriousness pursuing internally generated revenue.

Responses from the data analysed, the hypothesis is accepted based on the empirical verification gathered, which shows that the Inadequate funding by both The Delta
State and the Federal Governments hinders Warri North Local Government Council’s ability in carrying out developmental programmes.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

This study has clearly shown that there is evidence of engagement of Warri North local government in community development in some communities that make-up the council area. The findings revealed that Warri North local government has over the years embarked on some community development projects like road construction (wood walkways), provision of healthcare services, but little is done in the area of provision of education, provision of water and electricity in the area or the council or in communities that make-up the local government. The findings also reveal that Warri North local government has not effectively and efficiently engaged in integrating community development programme. As this finding from chapter four revealed, Warri North local government has a predominantly agriculture occupation. This means that greater percent of the population engage in farming as an occupation. However, as observed by the researcher, the local government to boast the productivity of agriculture in the area has initiated no much efforts or projects. Road constructions which help farmers in the transportation of farm products have not been adequately provided. This finding supports the view of Ayaide (1989) that local governments have not made appreciable impact in community development.

Also supporting this with the figure in table 4.9, which analyzed respondent’s views on provision of basic amenities (road constructions), where 70.% indicated negatively that road construction and other amenities in Warri North local communities have not been adequately pursued.

The findings also show that healthcare services in Warri North local government has not been sufficiently followed the limited number of hospitals in the
council area. Health care services in Warri North local government face the problem of insufficiency. There is only one general hospital in existence, which are functionally ailing and the Warri North local government has provided one located at the headquarters. In addition, other existing cottage hospitals are privately owned. Local governments have not provided adequate healthcare services in most communities as a means of improving community development as revealed by the case of Warri North local government area.

The findings further reveal that educational development of Warri North local government council has not improved as expected. Few existing primary and secondary schools are in acute shortage of facilities and are located in for distance from some communities especially those who are in the riverine areas of the council that have to travel far distance for school, the population structure also shows that greater number of people is in need of education.

The findings also revealed that other social amenities such as water, electricity among others have been in short supply. Water and electricity have not really been provided in most of the communities.

It is also found that inadequate fund affect the engagement of Warri North local government in community development. The finding of Warri North local government from the Federation and State accounts has been enough for local government to carryout its function. Internally generated revenue has not been adequately increased to finance community development.

Finally, the findings show that lack of utilization of skilled workers like engineers to the use of contractors is another hindrance to rural development in Warri North local government un-seriousness in revenue mobilization/generation internally is another major hindrance to the development of the council area.
The findings also shows that local government lack some equipments to carry out the community projects which requires heavy machines such as tractors and caterpillars and equipments which the rural people do not possess in order to improve their farming inputs and complete their projects.
CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary

This study was carried out to examine the role of local government in rural development with a view to finding out its impact on grassroots/rural development. The study was conducted in Warri North Local government and its constituent communities. The study has three main objectives which were specifically to; ascertain whether Warri North local government has contributed substantially to rural development, finding out if inadequacy of skilled workers (like qualified engineers all types, medical doctors, etc) has any effect on the ability of Warri North local government council in carrying out rural development programme and verifying whether inadequate financing by both state and federal governments hinders the council in carrying out developmental programmes.

The study was anchored on the “system theory” of David Easton. The theory argues that in every system, which includes political system, there are subsystems making up the entire system. These subsystems are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally.

The method adopted in this study is a triangulation of survey and descriptive analysis, which provided general impressions, summary of observations and findings made from the data collected. The methodology provided tools for the analysis of the impact of local government on grassroots development with Warri North Local government area as case study.
5.3 Conclusion

Generally, it could be seen that Warri North local government has not been effective in the development of rural communities. It conclusion reveals that rural development are in adequately carried out in the local government area. For instance, with exception of the local government headquarters and few other communities are not electrified and the possibilities of embarking on these projects are very remote. This ahs slowed down some other projects like cottage industries, pipe-borne water in equally in short supply in the local government area. The council has not performed well in the provision of medical facilities as most of the communities in the riverine areas travels far for medical services.

The council has performed below expectation in the provision and maintenance of primary schools in the area, in some communities pupils provide their own desks with which to sit and learn, the council fails to utilize its manpower in carrying out projects rather prefer the use of contractors who gives kickbacks. Finance is the bedrock of every business and government, it evident that the council lacks the seriousness in the pursuance of internally generated revenue relying mostly the Federal and State allocation which are not enough even pay workers salaries.

5.4 Recommendations

From the findings, I discovered that lack of seriousness on the part of the Warri North local government revenue collection staff, dishonesty of revue officials, inadequate vehicles and boats for revenue drive among others contribute to low internally generated revenue in the local government.

- We therefore recommend that effort should be made by the council to revive revenue drive in the council and reward dedicated and honest staff. There is also need to procure additional vehicles and boats to help revenue personnel to
discharge their duty efficiently and effectively. We recommend that the council should use direct labour in executing of projects rather than the use of contractors, money paid to contractors can be channelled into other developmental projects in the area.

- Warri North local government should expound it revenue generation to the water ways by collecting tax from the users of the water ways within her territories.

- There need for the council to procure tractors and fertilizers that will help the farmers in their production, and also bridge communities that are close with concrete bridge rather than wood walkways which will not last for a long period of time.

- The present situation whereby development is concentrated in the local government headquarters to utter neglect of the rural communities does not give the other communities a sense of belonging. A change is required in this regard.

- It important for the Federal and State to review the allocation of local governments, because the provision of primary education and health facilities will be improved upon when there is better allocation from the Federal and State governments.
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Interview

Emiko Buwa, Warri North Local Government council, member of the internal revenue drive.
Appendix

Department of Political Science,  
Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Dear Respondents,

I am a Masters student with the above named institution and department. I am carrying out a research on “the Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A study of Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State”.

I will be grateful if you will kindly co-operate with me by completing the questionnaire. All information given will be treated in strict confidence and used for the purpose of this research work.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours Faithfully

Olley, Omatsola.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Role of Local Government in Rural Development: A study of Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State

INSTRUCTION:

Instruction: indicate the appropriate response by ticking (√) where necessary in the various columns

SECTION A

Gender: Male [ ] Female [  ]
Marital Status: Single [ ] Married [  ]
Age: 18-25 years [ ] 27 and above [  ]
Religion: Christian [ ] Muslim [  ] Any Other [  ]
Educational Qualification: SSCE [  ] OND/NCE [  ] B.SC/HND [  ]
Official Status: Civil / Public Servant [  ] Trader [  ] Community Leader [  ]
SECTION B (HYPOTHESIS ONE)

1. The main aim of establishing Warri North Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people?  
   a. Yes  
   b. No  
   c. Undecided

2. Warri North Local Government Council contributes substantially to the development of its rural areas?  
   a. Yes  
   b. No  
   c. Undecided

3. In what ways does Warri North Local Government Council contribute to rural development?  
   a. Funding of projects in the rural areas  
   b. Empowering the rural people economically  
   c. Empowering the rural people politically  
   d. Provision of amenities for the betterment of the rural areas  
   e. All of the above  
   f. None of the above

4. What amenities are provided by the local government in your area?  
   a. Water  
   b. Electricity  
   c. Motorable Road  
   d. Schools  
   e. Health Centre
f. None of the Above

5 Can the council alone bring about the needed development of her rural areas in the provision of cottage hospitals, schools, roads and farming equipments?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Undecided

6 Does the council have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance and agriculture?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Undecided

SECTION C (HYPOTHESIS TWO)

7 Does Warri North Local Government Council have the following skilled workers?
   a. Doctors
   b. Engineers
   c. Accountants
   d. Auditors
   e. Administrators

8 Are the skilled workers like Administrators, Engineers, and Doctors enough to engineer the necessary development of the area?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Undecided
Do you think that none usage of the council artisan’s engineers to use of contractors slows the pace of development in the area?

Yes □
a. No □
b. Undecided □

SECTION D (HYPOTHESIS THREE)

At Present, would you say that Warri North Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government?

a. Yes □
b. No □
c. Undecided □

The lack of funding of Warri North Local Government Council affects her developmental strides in the rural areas?

a. Yes □
b. No □
c. Undecided □

The poor state of roads, schools, market, farming in the council area is occasioned by inadequate funding by the Federal and State governments?

a. Yes □
b. No □
c. Undecided □
13 What sources are available for generating revenues by the council internally?
   a. Tenement rates from markets
   b. Ticketing at parks
   c. Licensing fees
   d. Sales of stickers
   e. Water ways rates
   f. Other levies
   g. All of the above
   h. None of the above

14 Do you think that the council generates enough revenue internally??
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Undecided

15 How would you describe the local council’s drive for internally generated revenue?
   a. Satisfactory
   b. Not satisfactory
   c. Undecided