COMPARATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION: THE CASE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTLEMENTS : A STUDY OF ILORIN WEST AND ASA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

Mohammed Idris DANJUMA (PhD),[1] Salahu Moshood OLAYINKA[2] and Babaita Tunde ABDULKARIM[3]

[1&2]Department of Politics and Governance,
College of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences,
Kwara State University, Malate.
mohammed.idris@kwasu.edu.ng & hujjatallah2003@gmail.com
moshood.salahi@kwasu.edu.ng
[1]Department of Public Administration,
Institute of Finance and Management, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin
t.a.babaita223@gmail.com

Abstract

Local governments are recognised the world over, even though differently by different countries. Local government is one of the tiers of government created to manage the affairs of people at the grassroots level. It is the government that is very close to the people at local level which give opportunity or allow people to participate in policy making that will bring growth and development to their respective jurisdictions.Thus, this paper sought to examine the comparative analysis between two local government administrations in Kwara State; that is Ilorin West Local Government Administration (Urban) and Asa Local Government Administration (Rural) Area of Kwara State. The paper adopted the primary and secondary sources of data. It discovered that the people who reside in Ilorin West Local Government (Urban) enjoy many infrastructures like good healthcare, good road, pipe borne water etc. whish the people in the rural (Asa Local Government) hardly enjoys. This paper thereby recommends that the State government should treat all local governments in the state equally so that all the local governments can provide the necessary services and infrastructures to all and sundry at the local level;particularly now that the current government of the Buhari administration approved direct allocation to the respective Local Governments from the Federation Account.

Introduction

Local government is one of the tiers of government created to manage the affairs of people at the grassroots level. It is the government that is closer to the people which gives opportunity for people to participate in decision or policy making that will bring development to their local jurisdiction. Therefore, in every state, local government has become the main fundamental instrument for the acceleration and sustenance of development. Local government is widely acknowledged as a viable instrument for development and for the delivery of social services to the people. It is believed that this third tier of government is strategically placed to fulfill this condition as a result of its proximity for the rural people, which enhances its ability to easily articulate and aggregate the demands of the people (Ugwu, 2008). The need to catalyze balanced development, maximize citizen participation, and stimulate government responsive service delivery necessitates the creation of the local government. Local government serves as a form of political and administrative structure facilitating peoples' participation and social services delivery at the grass roots. The local government is a unit of administration all over the world. (Agagu, 2004) cited in Aderonke.

As observed by Otoghile & Edigiri (2011), it is generally agreed that the local government is the closest level of government to the people. In fact, a major reason for the establishment of local government is to bring development to the people by bringing the administration closer to the people. The needs of the people at the local level can only be met by a government that is very close to them,Mohammed, (2019).

In Nigeria, local institution or local government administration have been recognized through their impacts and contributions towards the growth and development at local level. But this institution vary in its contribution due to some factors surrounding it. However, this paper is an attempt to critically examine the local government administration in urban and rural areas in Kwara State. That is, local government administration in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State which is an urban local government and Asa Local Government Area of Kwara State which is a rural local government. The paper attempts to offer the system of administration in Ilorin West Local Government and Asa Local Government Areas of Kwara State some solutions in how to administer well, as well as same for the Local Governments in Nigeria with similar features like the two (2).

Statement of problem

Generally, local governments are created purposely to bring government closer to the people in their respective jurisdictions. Not only that they

contribute immensely to the growth and development at local level but there are some factors that serve as impediments or roadblocks which make local governments not to serve as instruments of development in our state such as inadequate funds, inadequate and lack of qualified personnel and lack of necessary amenities for effective work, etc.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to

1. Examine local government administration in Ilorin West and Asa Local government Areas of Kwara State.
2. Examine those factors that make Ilorin West Local Government urban and Asa rural.
3. Know the challenges facing both local governments in the state.

Conceptual Clarification

In social sciences, there are different definitions of local government from different scholars. In view of this, the followings are some of the definitions of local government. According to Nwankwo (1990) local government or local authority is a 'government' set up by a central authority or state government as a means of ensuring effective administration at the grassroots. In other words, a local government is the type of government that helps either the central or state government to carry our effective administration ovof a local nature. It is an autonomous or independent body created by law and charged with the responsibility of administering and dealing with matters of local importance within a defined area by the laws that created them.

The National Guidelines for Local Government Reforms (1976) defined local government as government at local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of service and to determine and implement project so as to compliment the activities of the state and federal government in their areas, and to ensure through devolution of function to these councils and through the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized. According to Ojofeitimi (2000), the word "local" connotes that councils are meant for small communities and the word "government" means that they have certain attributes of government. The concept of Local Government may be seen as a segment of a constituent state or region of a nation state, established by law to provide public services and regulate public affairs within its area of jurisdiction (Ikelegbe, 2005 ,Ojofetimi,2000). As King (1988) observes, local government is universally

found in modern politics, although it goes by various appellations. Its legitimacy lies in its official tasks to represent the interests or wishes of the local inhabitants and to administer to their needs. Founded on democratic ideals, it is required that they be given an opportunity to control their affairs at this level, especially since this is the point at which their interests and welfare are most likely to be directly affected.

Local government is a government at the grassroots level of administration, meant for meeting peculiar grassroots need of the people (Agagu, 1997,Aderonke,2001). Lawal (2000,Ola,1984 and Kne,1998) defines local government as that tier of government closest to the people, which is vested with certain powers to exercise control over the affairs of the people in its domain. Local government as a system of public administration at a local level, charged with the responsibility of bringing the people at the grassroots closer to the government. He however, regretted that a critical survey of local governments in Nigeria today shows at most the same scene; that is, they are living in the shadow of the federal government that have resulted to the abysmal failure of the system (Usman, 2010,Hazee,2007).

Local government is a politico-administrative arrangement which entails the devolution of authority to plan, make decisions and manage public functions from the central government to subordinate organisations, agencies or units of government, either geographically or structurally (Anyanwu, 1999). Emezi (1984) on the other hand perceived local government as "system of local administration under local communities that are organized to maintain law and order, provide some limited range of social amenities, and encourage cooperation and participation of inhabitants towards the improvement of their conditions of living. It provides the community with formal organizational framework which enables them to conduct their affairs effectively for the general good.

From the above definitions, the following basic characteristics of local government can be identified; it is a tier of government which is subordinate to central or regional government. It involves both the administrative and political processes of governmental power. Its area of authority is delimited by the statute establishing it. It has constitutional or statutoral mandated power to perform certain legislative, administrative and judicial functions. Its council is made up of elected representatives who are responsible to the electorate in the discharge of the functions assigned to them.

Within the limit of its power;in the ideal level, it has legal autonomy to make policies, to prepare its own budget, to hire its own staff and to execute its own policies; and it has a corporate personality.(Nwankwo1988).

Functions of Local Government

In order to realize the objectives of creating local government in Nigeria, it

becomes necessary to visit the Nigeria Constitution,1999 as Ammended in 2011 as stated in Sectios A and B as follows;

(A) Functions that are the exclusive responsibility of the local government save in exceptional or temporary circumstance, these include:

i) Building of markets and motor parks.
ii) Sanitary inspection, refuse and night soil disposal.
iii) Control of vermin.
iv) Slaughter houses, slaughter slabs.
v) Public convenience.
vi) Burial grounds
vii) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
viii) Provision of community and local recreation centers.
ix) Parks, garden and public open spaces.
x) Grazing grounds, fuel plantations.
xi) Licensing, supervision and regulation of bake house and laundries.
xii) Licensing, regulation and control of the sales of liquor.
xiii) Licensing and regulation of bicycles, hand cart and other types of vehicles except those mechanically propelled and canoes.
xiv) Control of keeping of animals.
xv) Control of hoardings, advertisements, use of loudspeakers, in or near public places, drumming.
xvi) Naming of roads and streets and numbering of plot/buildings.
xvii) Control and collections of revenue from forestry outside the forest estates to gazette forest reserves.
xviii) Collecting property rate and other rates, community tax and other designated revenues sources.

(B) Functions regarded as local government responsibilities, although state governments and other organizations may also perform parts or whole of these functions particularly if the local governments are not supposed or equipped to perform the functions initially, these includes;

(i) Health center, such as maternity center, dispensaries, health clinics and ambulances.
(ii) Abattoirs and meat inspections.
(iii) Nursery, primary and adult education.
(iv) Information and public enlightenment.
(v) Provision of scholarship and bursaries.
(vi) Agricultural extension, animal health extension services and veterinary clinics.
(vii) Rural and semi – urban water supply.
(viii) Fire services.
(ix) Provision of roads and streets (other than truck roads) their lighting and

drainage.

(x) Control of water and atmospheric pollution.
(xi) Control of beggars, prostitution and repatriation destitute.
(xii) Provision of homes for destitute, the infirm and orphans.
(xiii) Provision of public utilities except where restricted by other legislation, specifically including the provision of road and inland water transport.
(xiv) Provision of public housing programme, operation of commercial undertakings and control of traffic and parking.
(xv) Regulation and control of buildings, towns and county planning.
(xvi) Pipe sewage system.

Characteristics of Local Government.

Local government as the government at the local level possesses some salient features (Mohammed,2019)which makes it distinct from other tiers of government,; the followings are the basic characteristics of local government;

a) It is a tier of government which is subordinate to central or regional government.
b) It involves both the administrative and political processes of governmental power.
c) Its area of authority is delimited by the statute establishing it.
d) It has constitutional or statutorily mandated power to perform certain legislative, administrative and judicial functions.
e) Its council is made up of elected representatives who are responsible to the electorate in the discharge of the functions assigned to them.
f) Within the limit of its power, it has legal autonomy to make policies, to prepare its own budget, to hire its own staff and to execute its own policies;
g) It has a corporate personality and
h) A legal entity, which can sue and be sued.

Meaning of Urban and Rural

Urban (area)

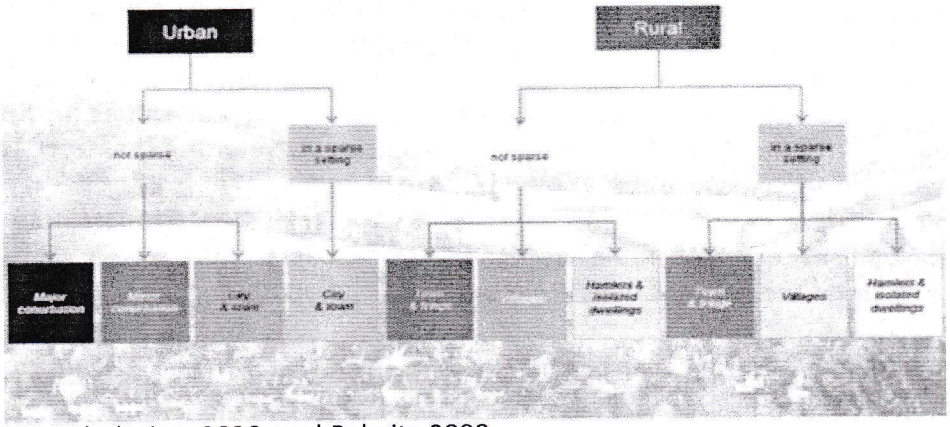
The definition of 'urban' varies from country to country, along side the period of classification, can also vary within one country over time, Davies,1988, making direct comparisons difficult. An urban area can be defined by one or more of the followings: administrative criteria or political boundaries (e.g., area within the jurisdiction of a municipality or town committee), a threshold population size (where the minimum for an urban settlement is typically in the region of 20,000 people, although this varies globally between 20,000 and 50,000), population density, economic function (e.g., where a significant majority of the

population is not primarily engaged in agriculture, or where there is surplus employment) or the presence of urban characteristics (e.g. paved streets, electric lighting, sewerage).

Rural (area)

Wherever possible, the Rural-Urban Classification is used to distinguish rural and urban areas. The Classification defines areas as rural if they fall outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population.

Census Output Areas - the smallest areas for which data are available from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses - are assigned to one of four urban or six rural categories:



Research design, 2020. and Babaita,2008.

Those described as "in a sparse setting" reflect where the wider area is remotely populated.

When data are not available at a small enough geographical scale, it may be possible to apply the Rural-Urban Local Authority Classification. This classification categorises districts and unitary authorities on a six point scale from rural to urban. It is underpinned by rural and urban populations as defined by the Classification.(https:III.gov.retrieve, Feb 6,2020).

However, the Local Authority Classification also considers some urban areas as Hub Towns (with populations of between 10,000 and 30,000). These Hub Towns have met statistical criteria to be considered hubs for services and businesses for a wider rural hinterland and their populations are therefore classified as effectively rural for the purposes of the Local Authority Classification.

Under the classification each Local Authority District is assigned to one of six categories on the basis of the percentage of the total resident population accounted for by the combined rural and Hub Town components of its population and its 'conurbation context'.

Brief Historical Background of Local Government in Nigeria

Nigeria has experimented with different systems of local government since the amalgamation of the northern and southern parts (Protectorates) of the country in 1914. The genesis of local government administration in Nigeria dates back to pre-colonial period. There were the existence of emirate system of the Sokoto and Borno caliphates, Ibadan, Egba, Ekiti and Oyo empires. In these kingdoms, Emirs, Obas and Chiefs held sway over the governance of their respective domains. Moreover, in these areas, there were smaller districts, Babaita, 20008 villages and wards that were subject to the kingdom and emirate governments. These smaller or subordinate levels of government could be seen or described as a system of local government which facilitated the emergence of Indirect rule system of the British colonialist. The system of indirect rule system later degenerated into direct rule because "the traditional rulers became mere local agents of colonial officers. The Emirs in the North, the Obas in the West and Warrant chiefs in the East became sole native authorities in their domains" (Ugwu, 2000:8). Consequently, there was a reform in 1930s which regularized the position of the Emirs as the Sole Native Authorities and consolidated emirate hegemony in the Northern heartlands. Similar developments occurred in the West and to some extent in the Eastern part of the country. The patterns differ from one district to another.

Native Administration

The structural arrangement of Native Administration in the Northern Region and other parts of Nigeria, had the head of administration as the Governor General. The Governor General was responsible for directing the overall policies of the whole country, including matters relating to the Native Administration. The Lieutenant Governors were in charge of Southern and Northern Administration with headquarters at Lagos and Kaduna respectively. Among other things they were in charge of producing the annual budget of their areas which are incorporated into the Central budget (Ugwu, 2000).

The Provincial administration was extended to every part of the country. Prior to this period, it operated only in the North. The number of provinces in the South increased from three to nine. They include Abeokuta, Benin, Oyo, Warri, Calabar, Ogoja, Ondo, Onitsha and Owerri. Each province was under the leadership of a Resident, who was responsible for the overall performance of the public services in his jurisdiction. The Resident was responsible to the appropriate Lieutenant-Governor (Ugwu, 2000, Ugwu,2007). Under Sir Governor Bernard Bourdillion (1939-1943), Southern Nigeria was divided into Eastern and Western groups of provinces. He used River Niger as the determining boundary. From 1939 onwards, there existed three groups of provinces – Northern, Eastern and Western, with each under a Lieutenant Governor with headquarters in

Kaduna, Enugu and Ibadan, respectively. Each province had Divisional Administration with District Officers (D.Os) as heads. The District Officers and Assistant District Officers were the officials centrally concerned with the execution and implementation of government policies and to a less extent, the formulation of policies at this level. Below this structure were the separate units of Native administration of varying sizes and types. The native administration operated through the system of indirect rule. The colonial government recognized and strengthened the role of traditional rulers and chiefs and through the maintenance of law and order, revenue collection, provision of services, political administration were affected (Ugwu, 2000).

The Native Administration under the indirect rule system was successful in the Northern region, partially successful in the West, but failed in the East. The failure in the East was due to the decentralized nature of the Igbo traditional political system. Besides, the Aba Women Riot of 1929, as a resuly of inadequacy of the indirect rule system resulted in the adoption of the "Best Man Policy". Under this system, Warrant Chiefs no longer represented the people in the council rather the people now elected their own representatives into the native courts and local councils (Ugwu, 2000). Thus, the Native Administration gave way for representative local authorities in the Southern part of Nigeria, while it persisted in the North, until the first military intervention of 1966.

Growth of Local Government

The Native Administration system continued to thrive in the North until the emergence of modern local system from 1952-1965, and the era of Caretaker Committees and Sole Administrator Systems. However, since 1970, the number of local government rose from 299 in 1970 to 301 in 1979, to 781 in 1981, when the state government were given authority to create local government. After the overthrow of the civilian government in 1984, the numbers were again reduced to 301 and later they increased to 449 in 1987; 589 in 1991 and 774 in 1996 (Otobo 2002, 302).

Local Government Administration in IlorinWest (Urban)

Like other formal 69 Native Authorities established by the Native Authority laws of No. 4 of 1954 of the defunct Northern regional government, Ilorin Native Authority came into existence in 1954 based its origin from the Islamic government set-up under the tutelage of Emirship. Thus, the emir of Ilorin then emerged to be the authority in power for life and death but in consonance with the provision of Islamic law (Penal code).

Following the creation of Kwara state under Decree No.14 of 27th in May, 1967 and the state local government reform of December, 1968, Ilorin Native Authority like others, was further decentralized into three native authorities,

namely; Ilorin, Igbomina-Ekiti and Oyun. Under this new reform, the state had eleven (11) Divisional authorities.

In attempt to ensuring wider reform, what was known as Ilorin Local Government was further divided into Ilorin West and Ilorin East local governments on August 27th, 1991 by the Federal Government under the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida. The Ilorin West local government itself flagged off her administration penultimate in October, 1991. Due to its long time existence, it was regarded as the premier local government in Kwara State. The local government is located between Latitude 8.30 North and Longitude 4.35 East. It is situated in the transitional zone between Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria.

Ilorin West Local Government which was created from the defunct Ilorin local government was not only regarded as premier local government because of its historical antecedent but also for its host as the headquarter of the emirate council. According to the 2006 population census, the local government has 364,666 inhabitants thereby putting it as the most populous local government in the state. It is thereby regarded as urban area with different infrastructural development available in the local government.

Local Government Administration in Asa (Rural)

Asa local government is one of the local government areas in Kwara State. The local government was created on August 24th 1976 by the Federal Military Government during the military regime of Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo with its headquarter at Afon. Asa Local Government shares boundary with Ilorin West, Ilorin East, Offa, Oyun, Ifelodun and Moro local governments of Kwara and Oyo States respectively.

The local government comprises of three districts, namely, Afon, Onire and Owode. This districts were later divided into 17 wards for administrative convenience. Among the wards under Asa Local Government are Afon, Aboto, Ilaoja, Laduba, Ogele, Alapa/Onire/Ode-Giwa, Ote Ballah, Okeso, Okeweru/ Yowere, Owode/Gbogun etc. The main occupation of the people of Asa local government is farming, weaving, poultry keeping and many more. The population of Asa local government is 126,000 (Population Census, 2006) with a land mass of 1,401 SQ/KM. The major languages in Asa local government are Yoruba, Fulani and Nupe, however, they have been more influenced by Yoruba language (Amin, 2017)

The local government administration in Asa local government is quite different from other local government in the state due to its infrastructural development deficit.

Comparative Analysis

In comparison between the two local governments in Kwara state (Ilorin West and Asa Local Government Area), this paper adopted the primary method to source for data. The method used is interview and the interview is conducted on some randomly selected people at 10 per Local Government; Ilorin West and Asa Local Governments. Based on their arguments, the comparative analysis only focused on three (3) areas or aspects, namely; (1) Social, (2) Economic and (3) Political

Social Aspect (Water supply)

Modernize borehole (or Tap water) in urban (Ilorin West Local Government). Majority of the inhabitants enjoy portable tap water for their livelihood. Since water is a necessity in human life, the people who reside in urban (Ilorin West) enjoy tap water while their counterpart in rural (Asa Local Government) from the analysis don't enjoy less of this. They respondents are or the view that well water is commonest which dries up in the dry season.

Infrastructure is very significant in any area, be it urban or rural. In fact, infrastructure is one of the factors that contribute to the development of the society. Tarred road is one of the infrastructural facilities available in Ilorin West local government. Though, there are some roads that need to b repaired, but most of it were tarred by the government while in Asa local government, majority of the roads are untarred by the government which makes the people to have problems with good transportation system.

Health is wealth. The responsibility of any government, most especially local government is to provide better health facilities to all and sundry in their respective areas. But there is high concentration of health facilities to one area than the other. For example, Ilorin West local government enjoy better health facilities than the people living in Asa Local government. This is because the government provides modern hospital facilities to the urban, Ilorin, like general hospital, cottage hospital, primary healthcare centre etc.

Apart from these, there are many cottage and private hospitals cited in Ilorin West local government like Ajikobi cottage hospital, Alanamu cottage hospital and Adewole cottage hospital. In Asa local government, there are few health facilities enjoyed by the people compared to those in Ilorin West local government. Only a cottage and few private hospitals can be found in Asa local government and health services are provided at high cost.

Economic Aspects

Industry: Ilorin West local government enjoys industrialization. This means that there is high concentration of industries in the urban area. The urban area enjoyed both government owned and private industries where about seventy

percent (70%) of such are managed by public workers while the remaining 30%are private. Asa local government doesn't not enjoy this as many of the people of the local government are predominantly farmers.

Revenue Generation: Revenue generation is one of the sources of funds for the Local Governments.The responsibility of any government is to generate revenue in their respective areas. Through revenue generation, the government is able to provide many infrastructural facilities that the people enjoy and in turn contribute to the development of their area. Ilorin West local government generates huge amount of money from its area which make it more developed than Asa. Revenue is generated through tax from market places (e.g. Ojo Oba, Mandate market etc.). as compared to Asa local government, the revenue generation is very low, thereby hindering the local government from performing and providing the necessary amenities to its people. There are some markets in Asa too like Alapa market, Yowere market, Afon aboto market etc. but revenue generated through these markets is very low due to the days of the market (that is,. they operate every 5 days).

Political Aspect

Under political aspect the respondents are of the view that the Ilorin West local citizenship do hve active participation in politics while this is lacking in Asa local government.

When talking about leadership in politics, Ilorin West have maintain the seat of leadership since third republic for the two (2) Local governments, because people like Late Abubakar Olusola Saraki and his son and daughter are godfather in politics that dictate to others in the State, particularly both in Ilorin West, Asa local government uptil 2019 when the legacy seems to have been overthrown.

Conclusion

In conclusion, local government administration is recognized in the whole world be it developed or under-developed states. They are created purposely to perform the functions at local level and at the same time, they are the level of government closest to the people. But, most of these local governments are not performing as expected. This is because some are not viable enough for social service delivery to the people at the local level. Some infrastructural and social amenities are not enjoyed by the people at local level which makes the difference amongst others between the urban and rural areas.

Recommendations

Due to findings, this paper therefore recommends the followings;

a. Local government autonomy: Despite the recognition of local

government as third tier of government by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria they are not given autonomy to perform. Therefore, if the local governments must be fictional they must be given autonomy, thus, Section 7(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria must be expunged from the Constitution

b. State should stop performing the functions of local government as stated in the constitution so that the all local governments can perform their roles to expectation and the issue of comparison between local governments in a state as urban and rural can be reduced to minimal.
c. Local governments in the rural areas should encourage or allow their people to participate actively in the decision making for the development of their area and not of by some Godfathers.

References

Aderonke, M. (2017): The State of Local Government and Service Delivery in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects.

Agagu, A.A. (1997): Local Government. Kolawole (ed). *Readings in Political Science.* Ibadan: Dekaal Publishers.

Agagu, A. (2004): Continuity and Change in Local Government Administration and the Politics of Underdevelopment. In Agagu, A. & Ola, R. (eds). *Development Agenda of Nigeria State.* Ibadan: Fiag Publishers.

Akamere, F.A.C. (2001): Issues and Concept in Government and Politics of Nigeria. Lagos: Simak Associates Publishers.

Amin, A. (2017): Problems of Local Government Administration and Revenue Generation in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Anyanwu, J.C. (1999): Fiscal relations among the various tiers of government in Nigeria. In *Fiscal Federalism and Nigerian's Economic Development.* NES selected Papers Presented at the 1999 Annual Conference Ibadan.

Babaita, T. A. (2008): Issues and Concept in Nigeria Local Government Administration. Ilorin: Olad Publishers.

Davies, A. E. (1998): NigeriaLocal Government and Rural Development in Nigeria; Problems and Prospects. Journal of Management Study.

Emezi, C. (1984): Local Government in Historical Perspective. *Nigerian Journal of Public Administration and Local Government,* 2(2): 50.

Fayemisi, J. O. (1992): Principles of Local Government Accounting. O. Y. Iseyin Press.

Gazetted Amended Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,2011.

Hazeez, K. O. (2007): Study Guide on Local Government Administration. Ilorin: Olad Publishers.

Ikelegbe, A.O. (2005): The Local Government System and Grassroots Development in Nigeria: Issues, Problems and Challenges. in Onokerhoraye, Andrew G. and Omuta, Gideon, (eds). *Perspectives on Development: A Book in Honour of Pius Oghenerukohwo Sada.* Benin City: Centre for Population and Environmental Development.

Kane and Sand (1998): Public Administration. London: Pitman.

King, M.C. (1988): *Localism and Nation Building*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books.

Lawal, S. (2000): *Local Government Administration in Nigeria: A Practical Approach.* Ibadan: University Press Limited.

Mohammed I. D (2019).Local Government as Agent Agent of Rural Development; A case of selected Local Governments in Kwara State.Unpublished PhD Thesis. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Nwankwo, B.C. (1990): Authority in Government. Makurdi Nigeria: Almond Publishers.

Ojofeitimi, T. (2000): *Managing at the Grassroots: Local Government and Rural Development in the 21st Century.* Lagos: Centre for Management Development.

Ola, R. F. (1984): Principles and Practices of Public Administration. Spectrum Book Limited.

Ugwu, S.C. (2000): *Issues in Local Government and Urban Administration in Nigeria*. Enugu: Academic Publishing Company.

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/rural-urban-definition