

**ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS**

**ON**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA**

**(1999-2017)**

**BY**

**LATEEF TORIOLA APANPA**

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**B.Sc; MDS; MPHIL (Demography & Social Statistics), MPA (IFE)**

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## ABSTRACT

The study examined the key components of the performance of local institutions on community development in Southwestern Nigeria; and assessed the mode of operation of local institutions towards achieving community development. It also examined the effect of local institutions on community development; and analysed the challenges facing local institutions on community development in the study area. These were with a view to providing information on the performance of local institutions on community development in Southwestern Nigeria between 1999-2017. Primary and secondary data were utilised for this study. The primary data were generated from responses to questionnaire and in-depth interview. The study population 6,084 were drawn from concerned stakeholders within the eighteen (18) selected LGAs in Southwestern Nigeria using multistage sampling technique. A sample of 375 respondents were selected for questionnaire administration using Taro Yamane (1976) sample size. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted across the three (3) selected axes with Chairmen of NULGE, ALGON, Traditional Council Chiefs, as well as officials of CBOs and CDA totalling 5 and 21 other respondents in the community. This is to complement information collected through questionnaire administration. Data collected were analysed using frequency distribution, percentage, mean value, simple linear regression as well as content analysis. This study revealed that cooperation (92.5%), consensus around controversial issues (78.1%) and acquisition of new community development approaches (74%) were revealed to be the key components of the performance of local institutions on community development in Southwestern Nigeria. Furthermore, it was revealed that mode of operation of local institutions had significant effect on the achievement of community development ( $R^2 = 0.257$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, the results found out that there is significant effect of local institutions on community development of 66% ( $r = +0.666$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Also, the study revealed that proper incorporation into governance system at the local level, weak institutional supports from government, poor administrative arrangement by local

institutions

themselves were noted to be the foremost challenges facing local institutions on community development in Southwestern Nigeria.

The study concluded that performance of local Institutions had significant effect on community development in Southwestern Nigeria within the time frame.

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**CHAPTER****ONE****INTRODUCTION****1.1 Background to the Study**

All human institutions are dynamic as they emerge because of man's need for them and change because of various factors. Yoruba traditional institutions for instance have suffered from revolution, wars, the imposition of colonial rule and post-independence political developments (Falola and Akinrinade, 1985).

The traditional institutional arrangement in community comprised the Traditional rulers, Council of elders or Chiefs, Market women or Women groups, Youths, Community associations, Age groups etc. Based upon centuries-old practices, it provides critical leadership often acting as

“custodian and repository” of the traditional “social system values” of the Indigenous communities. Alongside, it is entrusted by law with important public duties on land and revenue Administration, protection and management of natural resources of the community. Administration of tribal judicial system and the provision of advice to the Government Authorities

(ADB, 2001).

In recent times, the role of Institutions in community development has received overwhelming attention from researchers, policy makers and development practitioners. This arises from the need to promote the welfare of the rural people so that they acquire a better quality

of rural people.

With the downturn in the economy of many developing countries, especially in the Sub-Saharan

Africa, government is increasingly becoming incapacitated in meeting the citizens' demand for basic infrastructure and services. The poor maintenance and management of existing

infrastructures have compounded the problem of inadequate service provision in these countries.

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Also, local institutes might seem to be more actionable due to increased responsibility of the public institutions. To this end, the concerted efforts of local institutions are orderly observed across communities. It becomes important to examine the effectiveness of performance of local institutions on community development in southwestern Nigeria (1999-2017).

The transformation of rural environment has become the main challenge to the economic and social development of developing nations like Nigeria (Howarth, 2010). This challenge arises

from the need to promote the welfare of the rural people so that they can acquire a better quality of rural people. This will lead to increase income, diversification of the economic base and expansion of the market potential of the people (Akhiemen, 2005). Consequently, between 1972 and 2002, the Federal Government of Nigeria launched successively five national rural development programmes with more than eight supportive schemes. The low level of infrastructural and human capital development of these rural areas is a clear sign of the weaknesses

and ineffectiveness of these programmes and schemes and the Local Government to implement them. The development of Nigeria's local government system can be traced to the Native Authority Ordinance of 1916, which was passed by the British colonial government ostensibly to leverage the existing traditional administrative systems in the different regions of the area now

known as Nigeria. The ordinance was the first legal framework to operationalize a system of indirect rule (Ikeanyi be, 2009).

However, this attempt to unify the system of local government met informed resistance from the East and West regions, both because of its anti-democratic thrust and because the system

did not fit well with the existing traditional administrative systems in those regions. Nonetheless, the ordinance endured until 1946, when the Richards constitution introduced the new regional assemblies. By 1949, the Eastern house of assembly provided a platform for debates that eventually led to the Local Government Ordinance of 1950, which set the scene for a democratic system of local government (Ogunna, 1996).

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By 1954, democratic values had permeated the local government system in the three regions of East, West and Northern Nigeria, with each region having absolute control over the type, structure and functions of local government (Ikeanyi be, 2009). However, although the 1950

ordinance started to introduce democratic values in local governance, it also marked the beginning

of federal/regional dominance over local government administration, which was evident throughout colonial rule and has endured through the post-colonial era to contemporary Nigeria.

Despite this colonial history, Nigeria's modern local government system started with the reform of local government in 1976. This reform aimed to restructure and modernize local government administration, and to make it one of the best in Africa. The good intentions of the 1976 reform included the desire to extend the principle of federation by bringing governance to

the grassroots level, and to achieve uniformity of local government administration across the federation (Olanipekun, 1988). Despite the efforts made in the past to advance community development, the conditions of the rural dwellers have not improved, rather they have further deteriorated. It is against this background that this study assesses the performance of Local Institutions on Community Development in Southwestern Nigeria between 1999-2017. Community development is an age long social activity in our society. Even before the advent of the colonial administration, people had at different times in history, organized themselves into groups and had employed communal resources to provide physical improvement and functional facilities in their respective localities. For example, communal labour was employed in constructing homesteads, clearing farmlands, roads, and even some public utility buildings, such as “Obas” palace, market stalls and town halls (Akinsorotan and Ojide). Some past attempts to achieve rural development in Nigeria failed due to the oil boom in the 1970s which

gave people the erroneous impression that government should provide all their needs. Consequently, the spirit of self-help was relegated to the background.