

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY AND DEMOCRATIC SLAVERY IN NIGERIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: A CASE OF IFO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OGUN STATE

SALAKO¹, Oluwaseun Adewale and AJIBADE², Olalekan Eyitayo

1. Department of Public Administration, the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria;
Email: oluwaseun.salako@federalpolyilaro.edu.ng
2. Department of Public Administration, the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria;
Email: olalekan.ajibade@federalpolyilaro.edu.ng

Abstract

The study focused on local government autonomy and local government Administration, the specific objectives is the effect of local government autonomy on democratic slavery of local government Administration in Nigeria with empirical evidences from IFO local government areas of Ogun State. The research utilized both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected through questionnaire from a sample of 84 staff out of the total population of the staff of the local governments. The respondents were selected using stratified random sampling technique in which the total number of staff in each department of the local government was put into consideration before final selection using simple random sampling. The study employed descriptive statistics using liker scale in SPSS to analyze the hypotheses in order to achieve the objectives of the study. The study finds out that there is a negative effect of autonomy as a result of democratic slavery on the Administration of Ifo Local government area Ogun State. Therefore, the study the state-Joint Local government account should be scrapped and abolished. This will reduce the problem of illegal deduction, extra budgetary impositions, under allocation.

Keywords: Autonomy; Constitution; Democracy; Local government; Local Government Autonomy.

Introduction

The goal of moving government closer to the people is the *primus et-al* for the establishment of Local government in the world over, varying from this objective is the nature and structure of the local government administration in Nigeria, the status given to the local government is a mere tenant of state government which can at its own whims and caprices change the structure, composition, functions and finance of the Local government (Deil Wright 1985).

Compounded with this, is the constitutional provision in Section 7 of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, that made the creation of Local government a part of the state government functions, sequel to this is the distribution of functions in the Legislative list in the constitution, where there is no certain function allotted to the Local government. In practice, there

is no direct allocation from the federal government to the local government without passing through the state government (FGN, 1999).

There are various agitations that local government should be granted autonomy to enhance its policy formulation and implementation, determine its revenue and expenditure, and be allocated basic functions and responsibilities in the constitution like other levels of government through constitution amendment. Various reform committees had suggested way out of local government subjugation to state government.

However, overtime, the performance of local government administration in Nigeria has encountered many challenges. (Adeyemo, 2015), Points to the challenge of conflicting constitutional provisions, political instability and financial problem among others, most of these challenges can be underscored to lack of autonomy and democratic slavery on local government. In Ojo (2016) he asserts that control of local government by the federal and state government reduced the performance of local government administration which bought the glowing concern of this study to examine the effect of the local government autonomy on democratic slavery of local government administration in Nigeria.

The principle of local government autonomy is an important factor for local government administration because it cannot function efficiently without appreciable element of autonomy. Eme & Izueke (2013) sees autonomy as then ability of an institution to be independent from external control, free from any encumbrance in decision-making as well as funding an enforcement action. Therefore, local government amplifies situation where the system of local government administration is not tied to a federal or state government control but independent of their control in all ramification. (Okafor, 2010) connotes that local government autonomy means the freedom of the local government of recruit and manage its own affairs, raise and manage its own finance, make bye laws and policies and discharge its functions as provided by law without interference from the higher government (Federal and State government). However, this freedom has been impracticable across the stages of evolution and on history of local government administration in Nigeria.

The introduction of the 1976 Reforms issued the important of local government autonomy, which setup representative council, determination of population size of local government, direct allocation of funds to local government and review of personnel administration, following the 1976 Local government Reforms, the intrusion of the state government into local government affairs

was not limited to acting through the appointed secretaries of state government have retained over policy making at the local government level and this control exercised through the supervision of the activities of the local government councils and its committee and also through a direct intervention and administrative involvement in budget preparation and financial management (Paul, 2015).

According to Obi (2014) state government often created new local government unilaterally, appoints caretaker committees, sole administrators and other forms of undemocratic contrary to the provision of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. Most state government dissolved local councils during election and appointed their loyal party members who were expected to deliver votes in the locality. Thus, in spite of legal and constitutional provision which recognized local government as the third tier of government. Nigeria local government has encountered some kind of inferior recognition by the federal and state government which has made them to barely recognize as a tier of government (Olowu, 2014). Scholars including Ammani (2012) have described on how state government seize federal allocations meant for local government in their domain and misappropriate them, leaving local government debilitated Ugwu (2011), had observed that the constitutional power to establish local government, define its structure and composition is belong to the state government as such local government is a more state agency or a creation of the state government, therefore the issue of local government autonomy becomes a myth and not a reality.

In this guise, this paper will therefore examine the effect of local government autonomy on democratic slavery of local government administration in Nigeria with particular reference to Ifo Local Government area of Ogun state.

Literature Review

The concepts of Local Government, Local Government Autonomy, Democracy are discussed in this section.

Concept of Local Government

The term local government can be defined in different ways depending on the experience and orientation of its users. Local government is literally seen as the government at the local level. According to Izueke (2010) argues that local government is a system of local administration under local communities that are organized to maintain law and order, provide some limited range of social services and encourage cooperation and participation of the inhabitant towards improvement of their living conditions. Adeyeye (2015) defines local in the unitary state as non-sovereign community possessing the legal right. But which are essentially agents of the central government. Local government as the act of decentralizing power, which may take the form of devolution or deconcentration (Adeyemo, 2016). Devolution refers to the transfer of authority to special statutory bodies or local government while deconcentration involves delegation of authority to field unit of the same department.

To buttress the aforementioned definition Abade (2017), posits that local government is the third tier of government closest to the people and has constitutional power to exercise control over its own affair in its area of jurisdiction. Local government t first gained its power and recognition from 1976 Reforms, in particular the 1976 local government reforms refers to local government as government at local level exercised through representatives council established by law to exercise specific power within defined area (Agbarese 2004).

Concept of Local Government Autonomy

Ever since the introduction of local government system in Nigeria, there has been persistence clamour for the autonomy of the local government as the third tier of governance in the federation Eme (2013). Autonomy under federal system simply means that “each level of government enjoys a separate existence and independence from the control of the other government Adeyemo (2015), define local government autonomy as the freedom of the local government to exercise authority

within the confines of the law or constitution this enable them to discharge legally or constitutionally assigned responsibilities satisfactorily without undue interference or restraint from within or higher authority. The foregoing definition argue for adequate autonomy for local government within the law for the purpose of performance, which actually guarantee it autonomy. According to Nwabueze (2012) Autonomy would only be meaningful in a situation whereby each level of government is not constitutionally bound to accept dictation or directive from another. Davey (2002) in his own contribution, he opined that local government autonomy is primarily concerned with the question of responsibilities, resources and discretion and responsibility. It is important to note that considering the country's federalism and constitution there can never be an absolute autonomy because of the independence of the three level of government and this is to bring into focus the inter-government context of local government autonomy (Adeyemo, 2015).

Concept of Democracy

The word democracy is derived from Greek-latin words: Demos (people) and Cratia (Power) which simply means power of the people. Abraham Lincoln defines democracy as the government of the people by the people and for the people. Nigeria is a country that has tried the democratic system of government while acknowledging that there are other forms of government which include, socialism, communism, and diarchy that may or do promote autonomy in various social system. In a democratic government, the people exercise the supreme power by electing the government from amongst the people to serve the people well.

Therefore, as it has been stated above, the government that wants to enjoy autonomy must serve people with improved performance, in order to continue enjoy the reign of power. Democracy may not be promoting autonomous government in local government administration but as Onokerhoro

(2015) rightly noted, democracy can be promoted in all local government administration in order to enhance adequate maintenance and functioning of local government.

Theoretical Framework: Systems Theory

For the purpose of this study, General system theory will be adopted which are informs of local government autonomy in Nigeria. General system theory is a theory that has been contributed by many writers such as Adamolekun (1983), Effiong (1976) among others. A typical definition of a general system theory has been given by various writers

According to Almond (1960), it is a system that include physical, biological, social, political etc, which an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it from the environment in which it inputs from it into output for it.

The General system theory argued that every system, including political system, has subsystems which make up the entire systems. They assigned functions and provide with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority etc. so as to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. Input and output analysis of a political system is very important in the case of input has to obtain (Demand, supports, liberty or autonomy, information etc) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystem employs to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its output into the environment and obtain further inputs for the its operation.

Applying the General system theory to the autonomy of local government on local government administration, the local government in the country constitutes the subsystem. They must be well handled in terms of being fed with adequate inputs, and be free from federal and state government control so that they can contribute appropriately to the optimality of the Nigeria political system.

It is therefore, very important to realize the benefit and usefulness of general system theory in the handling of local government autonomy in Nigeria local government have their assigned responsibilities to perform to the benefit of the people, not as appendage of either the federal or state government.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Target population for this study comprises of staff of Ifo local government area of Ogun state. The local government has the following departments. General Services and Administration Department, Finance and Supply Department, Works Department, Transport Department, Housing, Land and survey. Town Planning Department, Agriculture and statistics Department, Education, Information and Sport Department, Community and Social Welfare Department, Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Department and Primary Health Care Department. The total population of workers at comprises of 250 members of staff that covers all departments at Ifo local government. One Hundred and Fifty Respondents formed the sample size for the study. The sample had diversity in terms of age, sex, educational qualifications, length of service and other variables. Questionnaire items were sourced through the respondents.

Data Presentation and Analyses

The section presents the demographic information based on the structured questionnaire and questionnaire focuses on the respondent’s view on Local Government Autonomy and Democratic Slavery

Table 1.1: Questionnaire Distribution and Retrieval		
Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Retrieved	130	87
Un-retrieved	20	13
Total	150	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.1 shows that 150 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which 130 representing 87% were retrieved, 20 questionnaires indicating 13% were not retrieved. This means that the percentage of the un-retrieved copies of questionnaires (13%) is considered insignificant

while 87% is considered significant and reliable to anchor the presentation and analysis of this study.

Demographic Information

This section of the paper presents the demographic information of respondents. The information is the Age, Educational Qualification, Position and Length of Service of respondents in the study.

The distributions of data can be found below:

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
30-35	35	27.0
36-40	25	20.0
41-50	50	38.0
51 and Above	20	15.0
Total	130	100.0

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.2 shows the age distribution of the respondents. From the responses 27% of the respondents is between 30-35, 20% of the respondents belong to age group 36-40, 38% percent of the respondents are within the age group of 41-50 while 15% of respondents falls between the age of 51 years and above.

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
HND/B.Sc	65	50.0
MBA/M.Sc	45	35.0
Others	20	15.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

The table above reflects the Educational qualifications of respondents. 50% of the respondents are HND/Bsc holders; 35% of them had MBA/Msc Degrees while 15% of the respondents have other qualifications.

Working Experience	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<5Years	30	23.0
6-10Years	20	15.0
11-15Years	35	27.0
16 Years and above	45	35.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.4 shows that 23% of the respondents have been working for less than 5 years, 15% have been working for 6-10 years. Also, 27% of respondents have been working for 11-15 years while 35% have more than 16 years working experience.

Data Presentation on Local Government Autonomy and Democratic Slavery

This section of the questionnaire focuses on the respondent's view on Local Government Autonomy and Democratic Slavery.

Table 1.5: Absolute Control of the State Government over Local Government Administration affects its Performances

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	20	15.0
Disagree	10	8.0
Undecided	15	12.0
Agree	45	35.0
Strongly Agree	40	30.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.5 indicates that 15% of respondent strongly disagree that absolute control of the State Government over Local Government Administration affects its performance, 8% disagree, 12% undecided, 35% agree and 30% strongly agree. The implication of this is that majority of the respondents 35% agree to the above statement at Ifo Local Government Council.

Table 1.6: Poor Performance of Ifo Local Government is as a results of its Lack of Autonomy

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	15	12.0
Disagree	11	8.0
Undecided	25	19.0
Agree	45	35.0
Strongly Agree	34	26.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.6 above, indicates that 12% of respondent strongly disagree to the statement that

Poor performance at Ifo LGA is as a result of lack of autonomy, 8% disagree, 19% undecided, 35% agree and 26% strongly agree to it. This implies that Ifo LGA cannot perform effectively if not granted local government autonomy.

Table 1.7: Lack of Local Government Autonomy hinders Local Councils of direct access to Finance

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	10	8.0
Disagree	12	9.0
Undecided	14	11.0
Agree	37	28.0
Strongly Agree	57	44.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.7, shows that 8% of the respondents strongly disagree to the statement that lack of local government autonomy hinders local councils of direct access to finance, 9% disagree, 11% undecided 28% agree while 44% strongly agree to the statement.

Table 1.8: State Government interference in the Local Government Affairs by manipulating the State-joint local government accounts has effects on Local Government Administration

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	25	19.0
Disagree	21	16.0
Undecided	-	-
Agree	30	23.0
Strongly Agree	54	42.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.8 shows that 19% of the respondents strongly disagree to the above statement, 16% disagree while 0% was undecided, 23% of the respondents agree and 42% strongly agree to it.

Table 1.9: Local Governments requires adequate Autonomy than Democratic Consolidation

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	25	19.0
Disagree	18	14.0

Undecided	21	16.0
Agree	32	25.0
Strongly Agree	34	26.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.9, reveals that 19% of the respondents strongly disagree to the statement that local governments requires adequate autonomy than democratic consolidation, 14% disagree, 16% undecided 25% agree while 26% strongly agree to the statement.

Table 1.10: Local Government Autonomy improves citizens' Participation and Democratic Control in Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	10	8.0
Disagree	19	15.0
Undecided	5	4.0
Agree	46	35.0
Strongly Agree	50	38.0
Total	130	100

Source: Survey (2022)

Table 1.10 above, indicates that 8% of respondent strongly disagree to the statement that Local government autonomy improves citizens' participation and democratic control in Nigeria, 15% disagree, 4% undecided, 35% agree and 38% strongly agree to it.

Conclusion

The paper will examined the effect of local Government on democratic slavery of local government Administration in Nigeria. Literature and findings of the study has made it clear that no matter how proof constitutional provisions and statutory maybe, it cannot guarantee true autonomy for the local government as a tier. Both Federal and the state Government often sees local government tier as a child that needs to be treated with a sense of paternalism and to some extent of Instrument for political and materials aggrandizement. The study shown that the over bearing power of state government over the local government have had a significant effect on the performance of Local government administration in terms of meaningful and enduring development at the grassroots. It

is also noted that because of inadequate finance of the local government in Nigeria, true autonomy cannot be granted to them which as a result of this the Federal and the state government will continue their dominant control over the local government.

The study concluded by noticing that for local government autonomy to be appreciated in order to be free from any forms of Control by the federal, and state government, State encroachment should be reduced or completely erased and there should be discouragement in any practices that will favour inordinate usurpation of powers of Local Government by the state government in Nigeria, to particular those that involve democratic principles such as the use of undemocratic leaders or party faithful to governs the Local councils, non-conduction of local government election and delay in remitting monthly allocation to local council.

Recommendations

The following were recommended

1. To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Local government administration to Nigeria, there is agent need to review the 1999 Constitution and delineate areas of Inter-governmental friction especially in Electoral matters, creation of Local governments, tenure of Councils and finance. The Council Elections should be conducted as and when due to avoid of democratic Vacuum that is dangerous to the local government system.
2. The state-Joint Local government account should be scrapped and abolished. This will reduce the problem of illegal deduction, extra budgetary impositions, under allocation etc.
3. State Independent Electoral Commission should be scrapped and reassign election for local government leadership to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to neutralize state interference in the appointment of the electoral body and management of electoral process.
4. The needs for democratic consolidation as a formidable Partner with the rule of law that on help to entrench the constitutional provisions on local government so as to promote constitution that will be respected by the federal and state government over the affairs of local government administration in Nigeria.

It is of the believed that if the above recommendations can be adhered to, it will helps in significant ways to eradicate the effects of local government autonomy on democratic slavery and thereby

restore the true autonomy in local government administration in Nigeria, Ifo Local government which is the study area of this study will benefit to perform its function more efficiently.

References

- Abada, I. (2007) "Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: An Appraisal". *Journal of Foundation for American Peace Studies and Global Initiative*. Vol. 3 No 1 July/December. Pp 244 – 261.
- Abubakar, M. (2010). *Public Administration in Africa: Main Issues and Selected Country Studies*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books
- Adamolekun, L. et al (eds.) (1979), "The New Local Government System in Nigeria, Ibadan" HEB
- Adamolekun, Ladipo, 1983. *Public Administration: A Nigerian and Comparative Perspective*, London: Longman.
- Adamolekun, Ladipo, 2006. 'Postscript: Reorienting the Leadership of Governmental Administration for Local Government Autonomy and Development of Localities in Nigeria: 27 Improved Development Performance' in Ladipo Adamolekun (ed.), *Politics, Bureaucracy and Development in Africa*, Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd
- Adeyemo DO, Local government autonomy in Nigeria: A historical perspective. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 2005;10(2):77-87.
- Adeyemo, D. (2010). *Optimizing Local Government Finance through Public-Private Partnerships*, In Tony, O. (ed.) *Key Issues in Local Government and Development: A Nigerian Perspective*. Enugu: Praise House Publisher
- Adeyemo, D.O. (1995). *Sustaining Democracy in Nigerian Local Government: The Role of Legislatures*. In Akindele, S. and Ajda, C. (eds.) *Contemporary Issues in the Social Sciences*. Ile Ife: University of Ife Press
- Adeyemo, D.O. (Ed.). 1997. *Financial and Administrative Procedure in Nigerian Local Government*. Ile-Ife: *Local Government Publication Series*.
- Adeyemo, D.O. 1992. "Presidential System and Local Governments the Nigerian Experience since 1979". A.M., Awotokun (ed.), *New Trends in Nigerian Local Government*. Department of Local Government Studies, Faculty of Administration. Ile-life: Obafemi Awolowo Univerisity.
- Adeyemo, D.O. 1996. "Federalism and the Logic of Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria". *Nigerian Journal of Local Government Studies*, 16. December 1996 O.A.U. Ile-life
- Adeyemo, O. (2005) "Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: An Historical Perspective" *Journal of Social Sciences Vol. 10 (2)*.
- Adeyemo, O. (2015) "Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: An Historical Perspective" *Journal of Social Sciences Vol. 10 (2)*.

- Adeyeye, M. (2000). Decentralization Versus Local Level Governance: The Congruence Problem. Peoples Centred Democracy in Nigeria: *The Search for Alternative Systems of Governance at the Grassroots*. Ibadan, Heineman Educational Books Plc
- Ake, C., 1996. Democracy and Development in Africa, Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Ammani, A. (2012): "Local government in the Nigerian Federation", culled from www.gamji.com/article
- Andrews, J. (2012) "The Debate on Local Government Autonomy" This Day, Sept. 13.
- Anikeze, N. (2012) "Repositioning the Nigerian Local Government System for Improved Performance" *Journal of Policy and Development Studies* Vol. 6(1) 166 – 174.
- Anikezie, H. (2010) Theories and Practice of Local Government Administration in Nigeria: A Comparative Perspective. *Enugu: Academic Printing Press*.
- Davey, K. J. (1991),"Local Autonomy and Independent Revenue" *Journal of Public Administration*, 49:45.
- Diamond, L, Linz, J. and Lipset, S. (eds.). (1989). Democracy in Developing Countries: Volume 2. *Boulder: Lynne Reinner Publishers*.
- Effiong, O.J., 1996. 'Systems Theory and Structural Functionalism in Political Analysis' in A.O. Oronsaye (ed.), Nigerian Government and Politics, Benin City: Petersam Publishers.
- Eme & Izueke (2013). Challenges of Democratization at the Grassroots in Nigeria: Case Study of Taraba State. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*. 2(7).
- Eme, O.I, & Izueke, E. (2013). Local Government and Fiscal Autonomy for Local Government in Nigeria. *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 01(03), 112-120;
- Eme, O.I. (2008) "The Politics of Local Government Creation and Implementation in Nigeria: The Case of the Fourth Republic", *The Constitution: Journal of Constitutional Development*, Vol. 8. No 3, Pp. 49-65.
- Ezeani, E. (2006) Fundamentals of Public Administration. *Enugu: Zik – Chuks Publishers*.
- Ezeani, E.O. (2012) "Delivering the Goods: Repositioning Local Government in Nigeria to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals". An Inaugural Lecture of the University of Nigeria Delivered on April, 28. Nsukka: University of Nigeria Publication.
- Fajonyomi, and J. Fatile (eds.) Contemporary Issues in Local Government Administration in sssNigeria, Lagos: Rakson Nig Ltd.
- Halidu, A and Bello, O (2012) "Alternative Strategies for Revenue Generation At the Local Government Levels", Paper Presented at the National Workshop for Local Government Key Functionaries on Repositioning the Local Government For Effective Service Delivery in Nigeria. September.

- Ikpe (2005). Local Government Administration in Nigeria: An Insider View. In Owolabi, D. and Aladegbola, A. (eds.) Local Government Studies. Akure: Excels Production.
- Nwabueze, B. (1983) The Presidential Constitution of Nigeria. *Journal of Public Administration and Local Government*. Vol. 2 No2.
- Nwabueze, B. O. (1983), “The Presidential Constitution of Nigeria” conference paper, ABU, Zaria, March, 1983. Odoh, A. (1991), Autonomy as a Principle of Local Government Administration, unpublished PhD Thesis, ABU, Zaria
- Nwabueze, N. (2002), “Corruption: a Sociology Perspective” in Adejugbe, M.A. (ed) Perspective on Nigeria’s Fledging Fourth Republic, Malthouse, Press Limited: Lagos.
- Nworji, L.O. (2004). Fundamentals of Local Government Administration in Nigeria. Owerri: Global Press
- Obi, V. A. O. (2001), Modern local government practice in Nigeria, Enugu: Cecta (Nig.)
- Odo, L. U. (2014). Local government and the challenges of grassroots development in Nigeria. *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 3(6): 204-213.
- Odo, L.U (2014). “Local Government and the Challenges of Grassroots Development in Nigeria”, *Review of Public Administration*.
- Ogban, O. (2011) “The State Joint Local Government Account and the Fiscal Autonomy of Local Governments in Nigeria: The Case of Enugu State (May, 1999 – May, 2007)” In Tony, O. (2011) (ed) Issues in Local Government and Development: *The Nigerian Perspective Enugu*: Praise House Publishers.
- Ojo, O. (2009) “Efficient Management for Local Governments: the Nigerian Experience”, *Buletinul, Universitajii Petrol – gaze din Ploiesti* Vol. LXI No 2: 36 -44.
- Ojo, O.(2016) “Efficient Management for Local Governments: the Nigerian Experience”, *Buletinul,Universitajii Petrol – gaze din Ploiesti* Vol. LXI No 2: 36 -44
- Okafor, C. D., Chukwuemeka, E. E. O. and Udentia, J. O. (2015). Developmental local government as a model for grassroots socio-economic development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Arts and Humanities (IJAH)*, Bahir Dar-Ethiopia, 4(2): 42-61.
- Okafor, J. (2010). Local Government Financial Autonomy in Nigeria: The State Joint Local Government Account. *Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance* (CJLG July), 6, 127-131.
- Okafor, J.C. and Orjinta, I. H. (2013). Constitutional democracy and caretaker committee in Nigeria local government system: an assessment. *Common-wealth of Journal of Local Governance*, 2(5): 290- 298.
- Okolie, O. and Eze, F. (2006) Local Government Administration in Nigeria: Concepts and Applications. Enugu: *John Jacob Classic Publishers Ltd*.

- Ola, R. F. (1984). *Local Government in Nigeria*. London: Kagan Paul International PLC
- Ola, R.F. and Tonwe, D.A., 2005. *Local Administration and Local Government in Nigeria*, Apapa-Lagos: Amfitop Books.
- Olowu D, Wunsch JS. *Local governance in Africa: the challenges of democratic decentralization*. Boulder, CO.: Lynne Rienner; 2004.
- Olowu D. (2014) Achievements and problems of federal and state transfers to local governments in Nigeria since independence. In: Adamolekun L, Robert R, Laleye M, editors. *Decentralization policies and socio-economic in SubSaharan Africa*. Washington: Economic Development Institute; 1990
- Olowu D. Achievements and problems of federal and state transfers to local governments in Nigeria since independence. In: Adamolekun L, Robert R, Laleye M, editors. *Decentralization policies and socio-economic in SubSaharan Africa*. Washington: *Economic Development Institute*; 1990.
- Olowu, D. (1986): "A Decade of Local Government Reform in Nigeria: 1976-1986". *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 9; 52: 287- 299
- Olowu, D. (1995). The Failure of Current Decentralization Programmes in Africa. In Wunsch, S. and Olowu, D. (eds.) *The Failure of Centralized State, Institutions and Self-Governance in African*. San Francisco: Institute For Contemporary Studies. 74.
- Omoruyi, Omo, (2014). 'Democracy as a Right: A Neglected Issue in Nigeria' 1st Distinguished Faculty of Social Sciences Public Lecture, Benin City: *Faculty of Social Sciences*.
- Omoruyi, Omo, 1995. 'Local Government Reforms and Implications for Grassroots Democracy in Nigeria' in A.E. Ekoko, et al. (eds.), *The Political Economy of Local Government Reforms*.
- Omoruyi, Omo, 2004. 'Democracy as a Right: A Neglected Issue in Nigeria' 1st Distinguished Faculty of Social Sciences Public Lecture, Benin City: *Faculty of Social Sciences*.
- Onokerhora (2015). *The Effectiveness of Local Government in Rural Development in Nigeria: A Study of Ngor Okpala L.G.C of Imo State*, An Unpublished (B.PA) Project Ambrose Alli University, Edo State.
- Onokerhoraye, A.G., 2005. 'Perspectives on Development: An Overview' in A.G. Onokerhoraye and G.E.D. Omuta (eds.) *Perspectives on Development: A Book in Honour of Pius O. Sada*, Benin City: Centre for Population and Environmental Development.
- Ugwu, S.C. (2017). *Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: Issues and Constraints*. Inaugural Lecture of Enugu State University of Science and Technology, delivered on April 6th.
- Ugwu, S.C. (2017). *Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: Issues and Constraints*. Inaugural Lecture of Enugu State University of Science and Technology, delivered on April 6th

Ukertor GM. The principles and practice of federalism and local government autonomy in Nigeria: Reality or mirage? Nsukka: Chuka Educational Publishers; 2009.

Ukertor GM. The principles and practice of federalism and local government autonomy in Nigeria: reality or mirage? Nsukka: Chuka Educational Publishers; 2009.

Ukiwo, U. (2010) "Creation of Local Government Areas and Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria: The Case of Warri, Delta State". The Hague: Korimkilijice The Swart.

Ukoha Ukiwo. (2006). Creation of local government areas and ethnic conflicts in Nigeria: The case of Warri, Delta state. Retrieved from:
<http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/copy/decentralization> co on 16.09.2011.

Wada Enejo & Aminu (2014). Local Government Reforms in Nigeria in I. Olojide, B.