

AKSU Journal of Social Sciences (AKSUJOSS)
ISSN: 2504 – 933X
Vol.4,No.1(April)2024,pp.64-79
DOI:https:// doi.org/10.61090/aksujoss.2024.005
URL: htpp://www.aksujournal.com/vol.4.1

Received: **18th March, 2023**
Accepted: **3rd August, 2023**
Published online: **1th April, 2024**

Assessment of Intergovernmental Relations and Service Delivery in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Ilukwe Ugochukwu Edward
&
Ushurhe Jesse Igho
Department of Political Science & International Relations,
Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Delta State. Nigeria.
ugochukwu.ilukwe@dou.edu.ng

Abstract

The practice of Intergovernmental Relations provides certain conditions for two or more federating units to come together to provide services to the people. Local Government inability to function effectively is due, in part to corruption, financial and constitutional problems, due to continued strangulation of local government authorities by state government and also through the use of joint account financing. The objectives of the study generally, are to find out whether and how the Kaduna state government interferes with the autonomy of Sabon-Gari Local government in the latter's quest to formulate and implement local policies for the provision of service delivery. The major finding of the study showed that the more accumulated financial resources of local government account, the more the state government takes out of it illegally, thereby resulting into less services provided by local government to its people. The study recommended, the need for the on-going national constitutional review to make emphasis on ensuring the power of autonomy of local government authorities should be given in full also the removal of joint account financing.

Keywords: Federalism, intergovernmental relations, local government, service delivery.

Introduction

Every state or government in the world has a central unit and a local unit. The existence of other units of governance is seen as essential tool for the operation of the state system. The relationship between the different levels of government in a state system is termed intergovernmental relations. However the term is mostly used in connection with states having federal structures. The political decentralization of responsibilities and functions gives rise to a number of interesting related issues. Intergovernmental relations try to answer questions regarding how conflicts emerge, how consensus is reached; it also defines the distribution of powers, functions and resources between the levels of government. Some aspects of intergovernmental relations became key issues in Nigeria even before a federal system became operational in 1954.

Generally, intergovernmental relations in the country have tended to be characterized by cooperation and collaboration amongst various levels of government in a federal system. Intergovernmental relations became very essential in the allocation of powers and resources among the component units or levels of government in the country. Ikoiwoik (1992; 2) refers to Intergovernmental relations as that complex network of transactions or interactions among the constituents governments of a state.

The practice of federalism provides certain conditions for two or more federating units to carry out service delivery to the people. Usually, the issues around which such network of relationships is based include the determination of carrying out constitutional responsibilities, fiscal control, recruitment of personnel, and the democratization at the grass roots level. Despite many reforms by the federal government in Nigeria to strengthen local government to optimally carry out their constitutionally assigned function for service delivery to the recipients, such efforts have been jeopardized and threatened by the political actors, functionaries and authorities at the state government level (Odoh, 2007: 12). As a resident of Sabon-Gari Zaria, the researcher has often encountered complaints by fellow residents about the very nature of service delivery by the local government, as well as speculations on the internal and external factors which may be responsible for the state of affairs. While many blame internal corruption by officials at the local level for the failure of the local government to discharge its constitutional responsibilities to the local inhabitants, others attribute it to collusion with, or the interference of state government functionaries.

Statement of Research Problem

The problem of the study is an assessment of how intergovernmental relations affect Sabon-Gari Local Government area in order to find out the factors that constrain the provision of service delivery in the study area. However, in the case in Nigeria, the constitution has specified the powers and functions of the different levels of government; According to Justice Dillion, (2006: 12) local governments have no common law rights because they are subject to creation and abolition at the unfettered discretion of the state government (political sub-unit or subordinate government to a higher authority). ‘‘as it creates, so may it destroy, if it may destroy it may abridge and control’’. Local government ability to function is based on what the state government have permitted the local government to carryout.This research work aims at assessing intergovernmental relations between Sabon-Gari local government and the Kaduna state government with a view to finding out the actual factors responsible for the quality of service delivery as well as the ways to ameliorate constrains and enhance accountability, autonomy, fiscal control, infrastructural growth, democratization and sustainable development in the local government area.

Theoretical Framework

The Constitutional Theory espoused by KC Wheare (1943) provide the frame for analyzing the subject matter of this study. According to this theory the relationship among the levels of government are determined by the constitution, which divide the power between the national and state government .In understanding the relationship, the constitution. In understanding the relationship, the constitution, state the division of power among levels of government. Therefore, there must exist a written constitution showing this relation, thus any understanding of relationship among levels of government should be sighted from constitutional stipulation. To support the constitutional theory is also, what is described as dual power. The dual power stipulates that there exist concurrently two centers of power, one in the state and the other in the

federal. Each of the power centers has its own power and authority independent of one another. It assumes that the two centers possess power since both centers where elected democratically by their own people. To them every relationship should be based on mutual understanding. The major weakness of the theory is that it assumes that there are only two levels of government, which are regional or state and federal. It also assumes that the constitution determines everything but in real life this assumption is wrong.

Literature and Empirical Review

The role of service delivery is further operationalised in the functions constitutionally assigned to the local government (Constitution of the Federal Republic 1999). Descriptively, it is noted that federal statutory allocation being distributed to local government councils in Nigeria since early

1990's is regular and reasonable enough to translate to better outcomes in spite of these increasing public funds, the financial profile of local government councils in Nigeria is still very poor relative to the infrastructural development and delivery of social services expected of the local government councils by the rural dwellers. This situation is not unconnected to the mismanagement and embezzlement of these funds by the officials of local government councils (Lawal, 2002).According to Adedeji (1970) the ineffectiveness of local government councils is due to improper structure untrained staff and insufficient funds. However, Lawal (2002) posits further that budget allocations or funds may be allocated adequately but execution is always weak which usually lead to poor service delivery. According to Orewa (1968) the raison d'etre of a local authority is to collect the revenue efficiently and to use that revenue to provide as many social services as possible for it tax payers while maintaining a reasonable amount of reserve to tidy it over any period of financial stringency.

Poor services – in terms of lack of good drinking water, inefficient waste disposal systems, poor health care and inadequate housing, schools, recreational facilities etc- are the norm rather than the exception in most Nigerian cities. These problems are compounded by population growth and the increasing rate of in migration from the rural areas without a corresponding expanding of basic social infrastructures (Massoud, 2009: 72).Poor service delivery in Nigerian cities is largely attributed to poor planning in some cases good urban planning policies are undermined by poor implementation. Lagos teams up with inadequate services, uncollected garbage, unmoving traffic, insufficient institutions and unbridled corruption in the public and private sector. Power failures and chronic, public transport is swamped. Such situations usually result in what Dogan and Kasarda (1988; 22) describe as a pathological situation.Poor service delivery in Nigerian cities is largely attributed to poor planning in some cases good urban planning policies are undermined by poor implementation. Lagos teams up with inadequate services, uncollected garbage, unmoving traffic, insufficient institutions and unbridled corruption in the public and private sector. Power failures and chronic, public transport is swamped. Such situations usually result in what Dogan and Kasarda (1988; 22) describe as a *pathological situation.*

Service delivery is conceptualized as the relationship between policy makers, service providers and poor people. It encompassed services and their supporting system that is typically regarded as a state responsibility. These include social services (primary education and basic health services) infrastructure (water and sanitation, roads and bridges) and services that promote personal security.It is argued that the delivery of service needs strong relationships of accountability between the actors in the service delivery scheme. The delivery of public services involves at least two relationships of accountability-clients as citizens have to hold policy makers

or politicians accountable for allocating resources towards these services. Policy makers in return need to hold service providers accountable for delivering service (Ahmed et al, 2005).According to the 1976 Local Government Reforms (Guidelines 1976) the principal aims of local government are:

- To make appropriate services and development activities responsible to local wishes and initiatives by developing or delegating such to local representatives bodies.
- To facilitate the exercise of democratic self-government close to the local levels of our society and to encourage initiative and leadership potential.
- To mobilize human and material resources through the involvement of members of the public in their local development.
- To provide a two-day channel of communication between local communities and government (both state and federal government).

From the objectives above, the first reason for establishing local governments is to provide services using its human and financial resources. Its roles are largely service provision and mobilization. The supportive role is democratization to ensure that diverse community interests are adequately represented and catered for.The role of service delivery is further operationalized in the functions constitutionally assigned to the local government (FRN, 1999).

Descriptively, it is noted that federal statutory allocation being distributed to local government councils in Nigeria since early 1990's is regular and reasonable enough to translate to better outcomes in spite of these increasing public funds, the financial profile of local government councils in Nigeria is still very poor relative to the infrastructural development and delivery of social services expected of the local government councils by the rural dwellers. This situation is not unconnected to the mismanagement and embezzlement of these funds by the officials of local government councils (Lawal, 2002).According to Adedeji (1970), the ineffectiveness of local government councils is due to improper structure untrained staff and insufficient funds. However, Lawal (2002) posits further that budget allocations or funds may be allocated adequately but execution is always weak which usually lead to poor service delivery. According to Orewa (1968) the raison d'etre of a local authority is to collect the revenue efficiently and to use that revenue to provide as many social services as possible for it tax payers while maintaining a reasonable amount of reserve to tidy it over any period of financial stringency.

Poor services – in terms of lack of good drinking water, inefficient waste disposal systems, poor health care and inadequate housing, schools, recreational facilities etc- are the norm rather than the exception in most Nigerian cities. These problems are compounded by population growth and the increasing rate of in migration from the rural areas without a corresponding expanding of basic social infrastructures (Massoud, 2009: 72).Poor service delivery in Nigerian cities is largely attributed to poor planning in some cases good urban planning policies are undermined by poor implementation. Lagos teams up with inadequate services, uncollected garbage, unmoving traffic, insufficient institutions and unbridled corruption in the public and private sector. Power failures and chronic, public transport is swamped. Such situations usually result in what Dogan et al (1988; 22) describe as a pathological situation.

There are three impediments to effective service delivery in Nigeria. It has long been argued that insufficient social services can be traced to the lack of adequate funding. According to Omar (2009), inadequate financial resources should not be a key constraint to effective service delivery. In his assertion, even without the necessary funds, local governments may not receive as

much to perform better than the almost inconsequential level of service delivery that prevails at present. While local governments may receive as much either in terms of revenue per capita or in their share of total public expenditure, their functional responsibilities are more limited than those of state and federal government.

In a related development, the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is ambiguous with regard to the authority and autonomy of local governments in providing basic services, such as primary health, for which they have been assigned responsibility through sectorial directives. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitutions lists the functions of LGAs as follows:The functions of a local government council shall include participation of such council in the government of a state as respect the following matters:

a) the provision maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education;
b) the development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation of minerals;
c) the provision and maintenance of health services; and
d) such other functions as may be conferred on a local government council by the House of Assembly of the State.

This implies that according to the Constitution, it is the state governments that have principal responsibility for basic services such as primary health and primary education, with the extent of participation of LGAs in the execution of these responsibilities determined at the discretion of individual state governments. The constitutional existence of state-level discretion might lead to disparities across local governments or across states in the extent to which responsibility for primary health is effectively decentralized. Modern healthcare facilities are inadequate at the local government level they are too few to cater for the health needs of the people. Government owned health facilities including primary health care centers, clinics and maternity care centers are more accessible to local people. However most public health facilities are not adequately equipped and managed. Basic hospital equipments and facilities such as beds, incubators and sterilizing units are usually lacking. There is also an auspicious shortage of manpower in the public health sector due to poor motivation as most health workers have moved to private health establishments in search of better wages, incentives and working conditions. Under-funding has tended to be the order of the day.

A recent trend in health service provision at the local or grass root areas is the proliferation of fake and contaminated drugs which poses serious hazards and risks to the health of the people. These nefarious activities led the government into establishing the national agency for food and drug administration and control (NAFDAC) to deal with the situation.At the institutional level, the altitudes and conduct of health workers have been identified as a major problem. Health workers in primary health care facilities, clinics and dispensaries are often very hostile and unfriendly towards care seekers. This is often in flagrant disregard of professional ethics and the feelings and rights of those seeking care. A recent report states categorically that:

> The worsening plight users of health services face goes beyond inadequate facilitiesand paucity of funds. The problem is compounded by many health workers disregardfor medical ethics and the feelings or rights of patients. Although public hospitalsparade some of the best brains in the sector, they hardly put their experience to theservice of patients at the public institution…

(*Tell Magazine*17 March, 2006).

One of the major factors constraining grassroots people access to health care services in Nigeria is poverty. Health care service in Nigeria is financed and this has had very crippling impact on household income and livelihood. (Nelson, 2009:190-193).

Agriculture is the means to food security in rural and urban communities. The pre-occupation of local governments in the agricultural sector is at the level of basic farm inputs like fertilizer, improved seedling, tractor hiring, pest control, and extension services. Local governments also have responsibilities for forestry, fishery and livestock developments. The state governments have become interested in both procurement and distribution even on behalf of local government fertilizer rather than a farm input has become a political instrument and has diverted attention from other basic agricultural services. This is a serious problem that needs to go. Local governments are also called upon to seize the opportunities of large scale donor presence like the World Bank, Fadama, LFEMP and the special programmes on food security and improved standard of living.Local government is responsible for basic education which includes primary, adult and vocational education.

A lot of its efforts are however on primary education. If government is serious about qualitative education to create the right work force for economic development, this is where it starts from. We have observed that the rot in primary education has had some multiple effect on the whole educational system. The challenge of primary education and indeed other levels of education are hinged on access and quality. While local government battle with these at the primary level, the human problems in delivering this service has been largely at the level of enrolment of pupils, attendance, retention, completion and transition. These are bedeviled by social, cultural and economic problems. Most importantly the poor also constitute the majority in the society are worse affected (Odoh, 2007).

Education for example can be a powerful intergovernmental change agent by giving those who are exposed to it a greater understanding of issues as well as confidence to participate in political discussion and in policy formulation and implementation (Chris Berry et al, 2004:19). Women literacy has the potential to be powerful for social and economic change if approached in the right way. Healthier and better educated people are more likely to be able to build their livelihood opportunities, and contribute to long term economic growth. Local governments are saddled with road construction and maintenance of trunk C roads. The problem of rural communities is access roads to market agricultural products and for social and economic interactions. Local governments have not been able to manage this function very well because of the capital cost involved. As trunk C, the quality of road is not well surfaced. The problem of local government here is declining allocation to capital projects in the face of increasing recurrent expenditure. Their ability to construct or manage roads and drainages is greatly hampered by such constraints. (Odoh, 2010:41-42).

A balance sheet of local government activities under democratic governance since 1999 would show that little progress has been made particularly in the area of meeting socio-economic needs of the rural poor, students, women and lumpen-prolectariats in urban and sub-urban communities. A combination of factors possibly explains this phenomenon. First is years of kleptocratic politics particularly under autocratic rule ensured that scarce public resources were appropriated for personal use. The patron-client politics in the country that predated independence still persists. Old tendencies continued to be re-enacted in spite of the fact that various democratization processes were carried out.

Almost two decades after the first steps were taken to invigorate local government an evaluation of what has taken place is necessary. According to LadipoAdamolekun's observation is still very relevant today; What distinguishes the 1976 local government reforms from all previous reforms exercises in the country is the formal and unequivocal recognition of local government as constituting a distinct level of government with defined boundaries clearly stated functions and provisions for ensuring adequate human and financial resources. All the other aspect of the reform flow from this fundamental innovation and the success or failure of the entire reform exercise will depend on the extent to which the new local governments succeed in becoming an effective level of government after the federal and state.

In plain language, the performance of the local government in Nigeria has been for lower than average. Indeed the political bureau in its reports admitted as much when it averred that despite the strategic importance of local government to the national development process, its contribution has been minimal (Oyediran, 1996:195-208).To effectively revitalize local government system in order to make it development oriented, the Udoji Commission suggested the raising of the caliber of administrative professional and technical staff that ran it. The 1976 reforms marked the first attempt to introduce nation-wide uniform measures. The objectives of the reforms were clear enough.The 1999 Constitution provided for a democratically elected local government council in section 7 of the constitution. But while the constitution made provisions for the tenure of federal and state political office holders to be four years, it did not make provisions for the tenure of local government office holders.

However, the constitution in the concurrent legislative list gave the National Assembly the power to make laws "with respect to the registration of voters and the procedure regulating elections to a local government council." The same constitution gave the powers to the State Houses of Assembly to make "laws with respect to election to a local government council". (FRN, 1999).The confusion created by the constitution later became a source of controversy between the National Assembly and State Governors, which subsequently became a subject of litigation at the Supreme Court as mentioned earlier. The confusion caused by the provisions of the 1999 Constitution on local government is just one of the many problems of the 1999 Constitution. It has been documented that there are problems in the 1999 Constitution with regard to the structure of all tiers of government, women, independent commission, revenue allocation and the security sector just to mention a few.

It is recognition of this that the federal government set up a Presidential Technical Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution in October 1999. The Committee submitted its report to the President in February 2001. That process appears to be stalled. It will be recalled that the Federal Government had also set up two other committees (the presidential Committee on the provisions for and Practice of Citizenship and Rights in Nigeria and the Presidential Committee on National Security in Nigeria) whose terms of reference involves review of sections of the constitution. It is quite obvious that what is needed is a comprehensive review of the constitution. The move by the Federal Government to single out the local government is therefore diversionary, retrogressive and a democratic reversal on the gains that have been made over the years on local governance. Local governments in Nigeria therefore have gross and chronic problems but get deficits as the available source, hardly earn the money to meet their recurrent and capital expenditure.

The 1999 constitution made provision for the funding of local government under the 1999 constitution as spelt out in section 7(6) subject to the provisions of this constitution (a) The national assembly shall make provisions for the statutory allocation of public revenue to

local government councils in the federation and (b) The house of Assembly of a state shall make provision for statutory allocation of public revenue to local government councils within the state. State governments hardly fulfill these constitutional provisions. It is quite clear that the most recurrent ones are finance and the sizeable and the sizeable mismatch between statutory functions and responsibilities, the flow of financial resources available to them, and the constraining limits of their tax-raising power or fiscal jurisdictions. There is no gain saying the fact that in Nigeria, the degree of decentralization of expenditure is higher than the degree of decentralization of revenue thereby causing a great divergence between sources of revenue and functional expenditure obligations in the local government.(Akindele α Olaope, 2002:9). In Nigeria, local government expenditure has constantly surpassed the potential for revenue sources owing to the great gulf between their needs and their fiscal capacity. This has largely been caused by the incongruous nature of their revenue rights and fiscal jurisdiction with the duties and function constitutionally allocated to them.

Two antithetical views stand in the way of proper appreciation of state-local relations. Proponents of ‘‘paternalism’’ have struck to the view point that the local governments have to be regularly controlled , supervised , guided and occasionally punished to get them to work . At the other hand, there are the advocates of ‘‘populism’’ who are staunch supporters of unbridled council democracy run by elected representatives opposed to any sort of interferences from the state governors. The truth seems to lie in between these two polar opposites (Fatile α Adejuwon; 2009; 107).Complete concentration of powers and tight control and constant supervision will transform the reformed local government into a glorified native authority, while the strength of any state government which tries to keep the local government weak is an elusive strength. Hashim (2003) argued that the populists are ignorant of the fact that local democracy as a form of government can be stronger with and not without state government support. Left to itself as an isolated enclave, local government can never be an efficient instrument of local governance. It is only within a network of relationship both horizontal and vertical that local government can expect to muster strength.

In examining autonomy under a federal system in Nigeria, Nwabueze (1994) stated that:…presupposes that each government enjoys a separate existence and independent from the control of other governments, it is an autonomy which requires not just the legal and physical existence of an apparatus of government like a legislative assembly, governor, courts etc but that each government must exist, not as an appendage of another government but as an autonomous entity in the sense of being able to exercise its own will in the conduct of its affairs free from direction of another government.Autonomy would thus only be meaningful where each level of government is not constitutionally bound to accept dictation or directive from another. In other words, no level of government must arrogate to itself a superior status or power to control or regulate the official conduct of the other.The crisis of federalism in Nigeria owes much to the failure to institutionalize governmental relations processes within the Nigerian federation. This failure was conditioned by the civil war and the centralizing tendencies of military dictatorship. Most of the controversies that arose in the area of IGR can partly be attributed to constitutional imperfections and also political party differences. This was largely so because major political actors are still much engrossed in zero sum party politics as against the popular win-win party game in advanced nations of the world.

The constitutional doctrine of the dualist model is the subordinate dependent and agency status of local government. Justice Dillon (ibid.) enunciated a narrow construction of municipal theory that local government has no common law rights because it is subject to creation and

abolition at the unfettered discretion of the state - ‘‘As it creates, so may it destroy, if it may destroy, it may abridge and control’’.

Methods and Materials

Research Design

Survey Research Design is a systematic way of collecting data through interviews and questionnaires technique from a sample or a total population, depending on the size and composition of the people. The researcher chose the survey research design for this work due to the following reasons: (i) The heterogeneous and large size of some components of the population that is state government officials in Kaduna state, Sabon-Gari Local Government Staff and eleven wards selected for the study; and (ii) The types of data, needed to answer our research questions that is opinions for respondents, figures (qualitative data) and assessments.

Sources of Data

Data for this work was gathered from two major sources. These were Secondary and Primary sources. The Secondary data was sourced from the existing literature documented in academic books, journals, periodical, published articles, magazines, newspapers and internet materials. These materials were assessed and collected from the Kashim Ibrahim Library (KIL) ABU Zaria, Postgraduate Library of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, ABU Zaria, Faculty of Social Sciences Library, and Library of Department of Local Government studies, Departmental Library, ABU Zaria on the subject matter of Intergovernmental Relations and Service Delivery.Primary data was collected through the use of the following three instruments that are simply referred to as survey instruments:i) structured and unstructured questionnaire;ii**)** **U**nstructured In depth interview; iii) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) andiv)Non- participant Observation (being a resident of the SGLG since childhood to date)**.**

The Study Area

The origin of Sabon-Gari is tied up with the establishment of the colonial government station and the extension of the railway line to Zaria. In the same year, the area was handed to native authority and some villages were added to it to form a district to ease the problem of indirect rule. This is what has transformed to be the present Sabon-Gari local government.The study area is Sabon-Gari Local Government, which has 11 political wards**.**

Population and Sample Size of the Study

In 2012, the population of Sabon-Gari Local government area was 352,815 and out of which 73, 808 are households representing 21.0% of the total population (Maternal, Newborn and Child Week Plan, Sabon-Gari Local Government Area, 2012).

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size of this study is 316, which is considered to be representative enough to the total population of the Local Government as it conforms to the Morgan and Kreiche’s criterion that a sample of 384 and above can represent the total population of 1,000,000 (Morgan and Kreiche, 1970). Multistage Cluster Sampling Techniquewas used to divide the population of the Local Government into ward cluster of convenience. This technique involves sampling in successive stages such that at each stage, selection is made by using any of the well known probability sampling methods (Biereenu-Nnabugwu, 2006: 192). Having divided the entire

population of the Local Government into wards as cluster of convenience, Systematic Sampling Methodwas also used to alphabetically arrange the population according to thewards for determining the selection interval of the individual respondent. In this case, the target population is the adult male and female and therefore, the household population figure was used to determine the selection interval of the individual respondent at the ward levels, by dividing it with the sample size of each ward. In reaching to the ward levels as the cluster of the study, we used street arrangement of houses

Methods of Data Analysis

This was done through tabulation method, which is a method of transferring data from its gathering instruments to a tabular form. The data was analysed through the use of both quantitative and qualitative descriptive methods of analysis to summarize the results of the subject under investigation. Through quantitative descriptive analysis method, the researcher made use of simple percentage and frequency distribution tables to sum the mass of the information that was generated during the field work.The interviews and FGDs were tape-recorded, transcribed and the data was triangulated and analysed through the use of qualitative method of analysis.

Results and Discussion of Findings

This paper is an assessment of inter-governmental relations and service delivery in Sabon-Gari local government area of Kaduna State. Accordingly this study would make use of tabular presentations, frequency distribution to process, classify and analyze respondents views obtained from questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions. For the purposes of interpretation and discussion of findings of the data collected from the questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions, we have essentially used the technique of data triangulation in thematic sequence, with a view to verify our stated researcher assumptions.

Research Proposition One

The greater the Kaduna State Government Interferences with the Autonomy of Sabon-Gari Local Government, the more Inefficient the Sabon-Gari Local Government becomes in the Provision of Local Services.

Accordingly, we inquired from the staff of Sabon-Gari Local Government, whether there were interferences by the Kaduna State Government. The Table below presents the results. It can be seen clearly from Table 1 below that, while 40 percent of the Local Government Staff respondents in SGLG Area were of the view that State Government did not interfere with the autonomy of Local Government, up to 60 percent were of the contrary opinion. It can therefore be said majority of the Staff, of the SGLG believed there was interference by the Kaduna State Government. This interference cripples down the ability of SGLG to function to provide services to the people with its due statutory powers. This further implies that SGLG, exist to function on the dictates of the Kaduna state government.

Table 1: Whether or Not there were Interferences by the Kaduna State Government with the Autonomy of Sabon-Gari local government (SGLG)

Category	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	60

No	10	40
No Response	-	-
Total	30	100

Source Researcher's Field Work 2022

Views From the Respondents of Local Inhabitants on Whether or not there were Interferences by the KDSG with the autonomy of SGLG

It can be seen clearly from Table 2 below that, while 64.8 percent of the Local inhabitants respondents in SGLG were of the opinion that Kaduna State Government Area interfered with the autonomy of SGLG as against 22 percent of the Local inhabitants respondents in SGLG were in contrary opinion, while 13.2 percent did not respond on the issue of autonomy of SGLG. This implies that local government autonomy was being interfered with by the Kaduna state government, leaving little or no autonomy for the functioning of the Local government to provide certain basic services that should have been seen on ground for the people.

Staff Respondents view on Whether Or not they agreed that Sabon-Gari Local Government was an Appendage of Kaduna State Government.

It can be seen clearly from Table 2 below, that while 73.3 percent from the staff respondents in SGLG Area were of the view that SGLG is an appendage of KDSG, up to 16.7 were of the contrary opinion, while 10 percent did not respond to the issue.It can therefore be said that the majority of the Staff of SGLG believed that the SGLG was a mere appendage of the KDSG.This implies that SGLG was not a third tier of government as it ought to be , but rather an extension of the Kaduna state government for political and administrative control, which eventually made the local council to be all self-reliant and dependent on the Kaduna state government. Furthermore it implies that on paper SGLG is a third tier but in practice of governance it has no statutory powers but rather checks, orders and excessive control from the Kaduna state government.

Table 2: Views From the Respondents of Local Inhabitants on Whether or not there were Interferences by the KDSG with the autonomy of SGLG

Category	Frequency	Percent
Yes	22	73.3
No	05	16.7
No Response	03	10
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2022

In addition to this, the former chairman of SGLG (Interview, 2022), was of the view ideally, that the KDSG was supposed to perform supervisory roles on how local governments utilized her resources and the provision of service delivery to the people or residents but in contrast or in reality the KDSG super- imposed it will unconstitutionally on the local government. The interviewee also said that, members of the Kaduna State House of Assembly not only poked their noses into the affairs of the SGLG, they even get local government funds diverted to them for their personal aggrandizement in the event a particular local government chairman was not co-operating with the state government, such chairman was blackmailed and frustrated by the Governor in some cases his tenure was made a living hell so as to make his stay unproductive.

The interviewee was also of the view that KDSG impose artificial priorities that did not go in tandem with local needs of the people.

The Kaduna State Government imposed people who lacked intellectual ability, knowledge and wisdom as local government chairman in SGLG in recent times. According to him such people were easily remote controlled, and are ignorant with the peculiarities of local needs. Such local government leaders are also usually surrounded by many sycophants who blindfold them and mislead them unto doing the wrong things at the very expense of the people. Another former local government chairman, (Interview,2022) was of the view , that local government are supposed to be autonomous but unfortunately the statutory roles of local government were left in the hands of the Kaduna state government. In his assertion, local government autonomy is not 100% but on a 50- 50 basis subject to laws made by the Kaduna state Assembly. By implication local government is subjected to the state government which has affected the function and power to deliver dividends of democracy to the inhabitants (grassroots).Another former Chairman, (Interview, 2022) was of the opinion that the 1999 constitution on Nigeria did not keep local government in a good position for them to use their autonomy. Local government autonomy is summarized in the constitution with a lot of ambiguity. In his assertion, the provision of local government is under the care of the State Assembly and he eventually submitted that local governments lacked autonomy.

Another selected respondent, (Interview, 2022), the director of Account and Finance in Kaduna State Ministry of Local Government Affairs (KDMLG) agreed that independence or autonomy of local government authority was relative. According to Staff Officer of the Department of Finance and Account (Interview, 2022), of the KDMLG, the autonomy of local government was determined by its ability to generate internally sourced revenue. According to the director of Administration (Interview,2022), in KDMLG, autonomy of local government was a welcome idea or initiative but that it would be abused by local government authorities and such abuse would eventually lead to their demise. According to this official, local government authorities are ‘‘money conscious’’ and not ‘‘work conscious’’, and that the autonomy of local government could not be sustained because local government authorities were not matured for autonomy. In his submission, the local government should be given autonomy on the basis of performance in the provision of service delivery.

Various views were expressed ranging from funding to autonomy. One of the participants said, that ‘‘SGLG lacked autonomy because of the legislation of matters affecting SGLG by the Kaduna State House of Assembly which compromised it ability to perform statutory functions’’.However the general consensus was that the SGLG lacked autonomy as the State Government had usually intervened very strongly to deny any local autonomy in decision making (FGD, 2022). The general consensus of respondents, participants and interviewees on autonomy, interference showed that KDSG denied SGLG it autonomy due to the fact that it is a sub political unit of KDSG, this was done through imposition of local government chairman in which they were easily remote controlled.

Research Proposition Two

The greater the freedom of SGLG Council to exercise all its fiscal powers, responsibilities and controls without undue interference by the KDSG, the greater would be its abilities to provide local services.

Accordingly we inquired from the Staff of the Local Government Area to find out whether or

not the SGLG Council was free to exercise its fiscal powers and responsibilities. The table below presents the results.

Whether or Not the SGLG was Free to Formulate and Implement Fiscal Policies

It can be seen clearly from Table 3 below, that, while 63.7 percent of the Staff respondents in SGLG Area were of the view that the SGLG was not free to formulate and implement fiscal policies, up to 36.7 percent were of the contrary opinion that SGLG was free to formulate and implement policies.This implies that SGLG fiscal policies on formulation and implementation of budget and expenditures is not within its jurisdictions, but overshadowed by the state house of assemblies and the state ministry of Local Government Affairs, in order to determine it budget and what SGLG is to spend. SGLG has no inputs of decision on its fiscal policies, but rather an imposition of budget and expenditure which it accepts at the expense of the council.

Table 3: Whether or Not the SGLG was Free to Formulate and Implement Fiscal Policies

Category	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	60
No	10	33.3
No Response	02	6.7
Total	30	100

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2022.

Furthermore, in one of our interviews, a former chairman of the SGLG, (Interview, 2022), asserted that the SGLG was free to make policies on issues and needs affecting the local government. Another former chairman (Interview, 2022), shared the same opinion that SGLG is free to make policies on issues and needs. According to the director of Administration, (Interview, 2022) the coordination and defence of local government budget is done by the Kaduna state house of assembly and not within the purview of the local government authorities. According to a former chairman (Interview, 2022) was of the opinion that there is insufficient allocation due to increase in population.Revenue collection is problematic as a result of lack of trust of the people and also the unwillingness of people to pay revenue because such money may not be used to provide services and eventually end up in private hands. Secondly, according to him there is lack of sensitization and no enabling law for people to pay tax to generate revenue. A former chairman (Interview, 2022), was of the opinion that statutory allocation of funds comes through intermediaries, in which he asserts that such funds were relatively assessed for SGLG.

Staff Respondents' views Whether or Not Fund were used judiciously in the SGLG

It can be seen clearly from Table 4, below that while 60 percent of the Staff respondents in SGLG Area were of the view that funds were not used judiciously in SGLG, up to 33.3 percent were of the contrary opinion, while 63.7 percent did not respond.It can therefore be said that a large majority of the Staff of the SGLG Area believed that funds were not used judiciously in SGLG. The Staff in SGLG were involved in the day to day routine of local government functions and responsibilities and it went to show that fund used did not represent the services that were claimed to be provided. There was a wide gap between the stated fund available and the use of such fund which was a big disparity. It went further to show that there was no accountability in the usage of funds by the KDSG / SGLG to the Local inhabitants in Sabon-Gari Local Government Area. However the general consensus is of the opinion that funds were

not judiciously used but stolen away at the expense of the people. (FGD, 2022).

Table 4: Staff Respondents' views Whether or Not Fund were used judiciously in the SGLG

Category	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	36.7
No	19	63.7
No Response	-	-
Total	30	100

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2022.

Local Inhabitants' Views on Whether or Not Funds were used judiciously in the SGLG

It can be seen clearly from Table 5 below, that while 68.4 percent of the respondents were of the view that funds were not used judiciously in SGLG, 24.4 percent were of the contrary opinion, 7.2 percent did not respond.It can therefore be said that a majority of Local inhabitants' respondents shared the belief that funds were not utilized judiciously to provide basic services to the residents in SGLG.This implies that services that are supposed to have impact on the lives of the people were not accessed by the people, due to widespread corruption and mismanagement of fund from both local and state officials in carting away with funds meant for social development at the detriment of the people.The majority of participants (FGD 2022) were of the strong opinion that funds have not been used to provide services but rather siphoned by corrupt local government chairmen that served the local government. One of the participants even alleged that ''the former chairman, invested stolen money in some other forms of business leaving the people impoverished''. It was the majority opinion that the former chairmen had abused their power and stolen local government money (kudun haram).

Table 5: Local Inhabitants' Views on Whether or Not Funds were used judiciously in the SGLG

No	171	68.4
No Response	18	7.2
Total	250	100

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2022

From the research work, the following empirical deductions have been derived to either validate or invalidate the research propositions in the chosen area of study as earlier raised in the study. First, there is so much usurpation of the statutory powers and roles of local government authority, so much heightened interferences by Kaduna state government which amounts to local government authority being redundant and incapacitated to perform her constitutional roles. Second, that Sabon-Gari local government authority does not have the freedom to exercise its fiscal powers, responsibilities and controls, this is largely due to the various instrumentalities of control of the Kaduna state government in the area of joint account financing by the Kaduna state government.

Conclusion

The issues of local governments in the provision of efficient and effective services to the people particularly in Nigeria since colonial era up till the present are pathetic. The inability for the local government to ameliorate the lives of the local people by providing efficient and effective public services has continuously been blamed on the local governments by the local

people and even by the poke nosing attitude and usurpation of local government funds which is a fast growing cankerworm in Nigeria federal parlance.

Recommendations

Based on our findings, the study offers some suggestions which will be of help in making the Local Government more result and people oriented. These suggestions include among others:

1. There is the need on the on-going constitutional review to make emphasis on ensuring the power of autonomy of local government authority, should be given in full to local government authorities which must not be tampered by state government. This will help local government authority to act independently in the performance of statutory roles and functions.
2. Emphasis needs to be given on the premise of competence, professionals in recruitment by the Local Government Board of Service Commission in Kaduna State and also the local government authority should employ capable and disciplined personnel to ensure the provision of services to local residents which should not be anchored on the ground of political patronage, but on the ground of being skillful and able to perform task. Furthermore, the educated and enlightened people should be employed that can do the right things.
3. Furthermore, the study recommends that the constitutional provision for the existence of State Joint Local government Account should be disengaged and erased entirely and allocation to the local government are made directly into the local government account. That state role vis –a –vis local government should be purely supervisory in ensuring strict adherent to financial memorandum and the efficient performance of local government constitutional responsibilities.
4. There is the need to tackle corruption and mismanagement of funds which is a systemic problem and should be tackled holistically from top to bottom in order to sanitise the polity of the Nigerian political system.

References

Aborishade .O.(1995), *Revenue Allocation; A Historical Analysis of the Nigerian Experience in the Changing World*, University Press, Ile- Ife.

Abubakar Y. Aliyu (ed) *Return to Civil Rule, Institute of Administration*, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Press.

Adebayo A.C (1986), *Revenue Allocation; A Historical Analysis of the Nigerian Experience in the Changing World*, University Press, Ile- Ife.

Adedeji, A (1970), *Local Government Finance in Nigeria; Problems and Prospects*, University Press Ile Ife.

Ademolekun, Ladipo (1983) Public Administration; A Nigerian comparative perspective, Benin; Ethiope Publishing Company.

Adewumi J.B (1980) *Federal, State and Local Government Relations* in E. O Awa, (1976), *Issues in Federalism*,Ethiope Publishing Corporation, Benin City, Nigeria.

Aiyede, R (2005) *''Intergovernmental Relations and the Strengthening of the Nigerian Federation''* in Onwudine E and SuberuR, *Nigerian Federation in Crisis, Critical*

Perspectives and Political Options, Dept of Political Science, University of Ibadan. New Jersey; Chatham House Publishers

Akindele R.A (2002), Fiscal Federalism in Nigeria; A contemporary Review in Journal of Social Science, Ile Ife press O.A.U.

Alex, G (1980), *Local Self Governance*, University of Ife Press.

Aliyu, A.Y and Koehn, P.H (1982), *Local Autonomy and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria*. Dept of local Government Studies, A.B.U Press.

Aliyu. A.Y (1980), *Local Government and the Administration of Social Services in Nigeria*.Bombay, Asia Publishing House.

Dogan &Kasard (1988), *The Metropolis Era; A world of Giant cities (Vol. 1*), Newsbury Park, C.A Sage; In the Journal of Development in Practice, Vol. 19.

Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*, Lagos Government Press.

Hashim, M (2003), *The Transformation of Local Government as a Glorified Native Authority*, Global Journal publishers.

Lawal, S (2002), *Local Government Administration in Nigeria. A practical approach,* Ibadan, University Press Limited.

Massoud Omar, (2009), *Development in Practice,* Vol.19, Routledge, Taylor α Francis.

Nwabueze B.O (1992), *Military Rule and Constitutionalism*, Ibadan, Spectrum Law Publishing Heinemann Education Book, Ibadan.

Nwabueze, B.O (1994*), Federalism in Nigeria under the Presidential System*, Hurst α Company, London.

Orewa and Adewumi (1983), *Local Government in Nigeria*, Ethiope Publishing Corporation, Benin City.

Tamuno, T (1995), *Nigerian Federalism in Historical perspectives*'' in K Amuwo, et al eds; *Federalism and Political Restructuring in Nigeria*, Ibadan; Spectrum and IFRA.