



## Interrogating the Paradox--Availability of Funds and Paucity of Infrastructure/Social Amenities in Nigerian Local Government Areas: Conundrum of the Selected State (2011-2018)

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### **Abstract**

Concerns have been expressed very often as to why the intergovernmental relations in the federal system of many developing countries, especially in the Sub-Sahara Africa are predictably chequered. Lack of devolution of power to LGAs in Nigeria is usually at the expense of grassroots development especially with regards to infrastructure/social amenities. Besides, the confusion surrounding progressive decline in provision of rural infrastructure to the local government areas of the state despite humongous monthly fiscal allocations to the LGAs by Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) equally creates existential problems to the rural dwellers. It is on this note that the study seeks to investigate the apparently disturbing paradox in Imo State. Data were sourced from both secondary and primary sources. Secondary data was sourced from government gazette and related literature while primary data was elicited from respondents through structured questionnaire. Multiple regression and graphical/pictorial analytical techniques were used for secondary and primary data respectively. The findings indicated that lack of transformative leadership exhibited in embezzlement of funds and indifference in leadership on the part of the State agents were the significant causes of poor development in the rural areas of Imo State. The study recommended inter alia; the enforcement of attitudinal change and punitive sanctions on the political and administrative classes in the state through legal measures to protect public funds for service delivery.

**Keywords:** *Poverty; Leadership; Infrastructure/Social Amenities; Development; Intergovernmental Relation*

### **Introduction**

The raison d'état for creation of local government areas whether in the developed or developing countries (Sub-Sahara African) is basically for rural development. In every system of government, federal or unitary, there is usually a space for the recognition and development of rural people with specific

reference to the provision of infrastructure, basically needed to ensure minimum standard of quality of life as enunciated in United Nations Development Index for the rural dwellers. In a federal system of government like Nigeria, there are basically three levels of governments recognized by the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended. The constitution approved federal system of government for Nigeria, meaning that there exists such levels of government like; Federal/Central Government; State Government and the Local Government Areas with devolution of power and functions consistent with the system of government (Nigerian constitution, 1999)

Federal system of government seems to be seamless both in principle and in praxis if the legal and political will is held sacrosanct. At this juncture, it is apposite to understand what federalism means. “By federalism, I mean that method of dividing powers so that general and regional governments are each within a sphere co-ordinate and independent” (Wheare, 1964.p.10). Specifically, the federal constitution of Nigeria 1999, as amended, created the central, state and local governments in a vertical form, with attached powers and functions basically for them to inter-relate to ensure sustainable development in Nigeria (Ezeani, 2018). Very importantly, sections 7(1); 162(6) and (7); and 7(3) of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria provided a type of intergovernmental relations that would increase and facilitate development of rural or council areas in Nigeria through empowering the local councils, politically and financially (Iheanacho & Nwachukwu, 2014)

Being one of the oil producing states in the Niger Delta region, Imo State, comprising 27 Local Government Areas receives monthly allocation from Federal Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC), a federal government agency responsible for sharing of federally owned revenue to the three tiers of government in the federation. The provision of the constitution made is possible for the state and its local government areas to run a joint account into which the federally allocated funds are lodged. This account is called State Joint Local Government Account (Section 162 (6), 1999 Constitution). Thus, in the case of state and LGA understudy, monthly allocation for both levels of government was paid into SJLGA, usually run by the state government. Provision of infrastructure to the citizens in the local government councils of the state depends on the availability of these funds to the authorities of the local councils. The concern is, with the prevailing abject poverty of rural infrastructure in the rural areas of the state despite uncompromised monthly remittances to the local governments by FAAC for rural development, what could be adduced as the reason for such monumental and troubling paucity of infrastructure and social amenities in the rural areas of Imo State? Further, could it be there were cracks in the vertical intergovernmental relations in the state and local governments within the time capsule of the work that negatively affected expected infrastructural balance given the fiscal robustness of local government councils

The 774 local government councils that constitute the Nigerian Federation have always expressed dissatisfaction on the pattern of intergovernmental relations between them and state counterparts. This is owing to flagrant infractions on the fiscal, political and administrative jurisdictions of the councils; a scenario believed to have contributed immensely to the poor state of governance and development at the grassroots. Available literature suggests there is shared pattern of both political and administrative behaviour of state governments in the Nigerian federation which has serially affected the functionality of the grassroots government, thus its inability to provide basics for sustainable development in the council areas.

Besides security of life and property, infrastructure and social amenities are the second most indispensable need of the citizens to exist happily. It is therefore the constitutional obligation of all levels of government in a federal system to provide infrastructure to the people in respective sphere of influence and control. This responsibility could be achieved directly or otherwise. However, in the Nigerian context, a system has been statutorily put in place to provide funding to central, state and local governments for infrastructural development across the three levels of government. This comes as

monthly financial allocation from the commonwealth of the state. Some of the infrastructures expected to be provided with the monthly fiscal allocation to the government of the grassroots include; good rural roads; functional and affordable hospitals/wellness facilities to ensure healthy citizens; industries to mitigate rural unemployment; communication facilities; functional educational system to boost standard of education and increase school enrollment (human capital development), and electricity. The provision of these, undoubtedly, will improve the standard of living of citizens at the grassroots. Human capital will be enhanced through quality and affordable education; access to healthcare facilities will ensure good health and longevity; good roads for easy and smooth transportation of human beings and goods will transform commerce. Industries will help check rural unemployment, thus reducing the geometric progression of incidences of criminality and rural-urban migration; electricity serves both economic and security purposes (Nnaeto & Umeh, 2020). Unfortunately, challenges like uncontrolled erosion; high mortality rate persists as a result of poor healthcare system; regular rural-urban migration because of freezing rural unemployment; small scale industries and artisans find it hard to cope because of epileptic and high cost of power. These concerns make life and survival near impossible for the people at the grassroots.

The study is therefore poised to investigate the causes of these developmental woes in the rural areas of the state despite huge federally allocated funds for the purpose and to make suggestions for policy action to the incumbent state chief executive.

### Brief History of Study Area

Nigerian federation comprises thirty six (36) states and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and seven hundred and seventy four (774) local government areas (Peris 2022). Imo State, a component of the federation was created from the defunct Eastern Region, precisely on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1976 by the military junta of General Murtala Muhammad, with Owerri as its capital city (Wikipedia, 2022). It is one of the five states in the present South East geopolitical zone with Anambra, Rivers and Abia states as its neighbours. It comprised 27 Local Government Areas (Imo State, Nigeria, 2022).

One of the natural resources in the state is crude oil, thus entitled to monthly fiscal allocation from oil revenue and other oil-revenue related allocations by Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) to the state and its local government areas respectively. The state has more than 165 oil wells located in different communities of local government areas being operated differently by the following petroleum companies; Addax Petroleum; Chevron Corporation; Royal Dutch Shell; Agip (This Daylive & Vanguard, June 2, 2015). The oil wealth of the state accounts for the huge monthly fiscal allocation to it and the local governments, to among others things; mitigate the effects of crude oil exploration by providing good governance to ensure good quality of life and existential hopes to the people at the grassroots (Nnaeto & Umeh, 2020.p.53)

Table showing the LGAs that make up Imo state

S/N	Local Government Areas	Headquarters
1	Aboh Mbaise	Aboh
2	Ahiazu Mbaise	Afor Oru
3	Ehime Mbano	Umuezeala
4	Ezinihette Mbaise	Itu
5	Ideato North	Uruala
6	Ideato South	Dikenafai
7	Ihitte/Uboma	Isiweke
8	Ikeduru	Iho
9	Isiala Mbano	Umuelemai

10	Isu	Umundugba
11	Mbaitoli	Nwa Oruobi
12	Ngor Okpala	Umuneke
13	Njaba	Nnenassa
14	Nkwerre	Nkwerre
15	Nwangele	Amigbo
16	Obowo	Otoko
17	Oguta	Oguta
18	Ohaji/Egbema	Mmahu
19	Okigwe	Okigwe
20	Onuimo	Okwe
21	Orlu	Orlu
22	Orsu	Awomama
23	Oru East	Omuma
24	Oru West	Mgbidi
25	Owerri Muncipal	Owerri
26	Owerri North	Urata
27	Owerri West	Umuguma

Source: Compiled by Researcher, 2022

### ***Theoretical Framework***

The study was anchored on infrastructure-led development theory by Agenor in 2010. The theory explained that socioeconomic growth and environmental protection at the local and global perspectives depend largely on investments in infrastructure development (Agenor, 2010). Besides, the theory argued that long-run development of public infrastructure is empirically the engine of growth in economies. Therefore, paucity of infrastructure-led development can cause negative multiplier effects on other critical sectors of the state economy. Thus, inability of the state authority to either engage on development of social amenities and infrastructure or encourage the LGAs to embark on it could knock the engine of sustainable development at the grassroots, state and the nation at large.

### ***Review of Related Literature***

#### **Development**

The term development is one of the phraseologies in human existentialism with multi-dimensional meaning, touching on almost all aspects of human life (Nnaeto, 2019). Development is a course of action, desired and taken at a particular time to salvage the situation (Berger 1976, p.59). This clearly means that the essence of development under review is to cause a change that should produce positive effect on the people. It could also be conceptualized as change of course along a trajectory aimed at improving the overall standard of living of the people (Nnaeto & Ndoh, 2020). Besides, development is construed as qualitative improvement that targets the standard of living of the population through the provision and making affordable social and economic infrastructures like good roads, hospitals education, industries, electricity and employment opportunities (Okereke, 2003 p.1). This input aptly captures the real essence of development, its tangible and intangible impacts on the citizens.

Human capital development is the epicenter of development because it drives and determines the success of development from policy-making stage to implementation and evaluation. Thus, it is a realization of the potentials of human personality (Seers 1969). He further highlighted that achievement in

development is made through reduction of poverty, unemployment, and inequality without which no development is made even if per capita income doubled. It has been extensively expressed that life sustenance, self-esteem and freedom of choice remain core values of development both for individuals and society (Goulet 1971.p.2). Besides, it was averred that development should be interpreted as the state of human wellbeing than the increase in the value of goods and services produced by various sectors of the economy (Aero 2017.p.27-30). Similarly, development implies setting up of economic and technical structures to manage the available resources with sole objective of creating changes that can ensure improved standard of living for the citizens (Rabie, 2016). In the views of Uma Lele, development is a sustained effort to improve the standard of living of the low income earners and to make sure that the process leading to such development is self-sustaining (Lele, 1975). Lele and Aero rightly opined that human capital development is the centre of development, thus every development effort made to better the life of the citizens must be backed up with structures (human capital) and functions that can sustain the process otherwise fizzling out of the initial progress will be imminent. As a multi-dimensional and multi-functional phenomenon, development could simply be construed as effort directed towards achieving collective prosperity and happiness to the citizens of the state.

According to United Nations Organization, “Development is a multidimensional undertaking to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development” (UNO, n.d). Similarly, the World Bank maintained that “human development is at the core of the World Bank’s strategy to improve people’s lives and support sustainable development” (World Bank, n.d)

## **Leadership**

Leadership is the most important aspect of human society. Every human organization, micro or macro needs leadership marked with character in order to experience goal achievement and prosperity. The indispensability of leadership in human sociology cannot be over-emphasized. Search for leadership led to the actualization of social contract, ensuring justice, equity and positivism in human society.

“Leadership is a process of social influence which maximizes the efforts of others towards the achievement of a goal” (Kruse, 2013). Further, the concept has been defined as efforts invested towards accomplishing or achieving a particular goal by involving the competences of others (Prentice, 2004). Same source explained that to be a successful leader, one should be able to know what motivates the citizens or the people and engage “employee participation in a way that marries individual needs and interests to the group’s purpose”.

According to House et al (1999), leadership entails one’s competence and readiness to act in a manner that can influence, motivate and encourage others to make willful contributions towards achieving organization’s goals. Leadership involves the availability of the leader and the followers. Moran (1982) highlighted on the danger of more leadership aspirants than followers in an organization or society. Thus, the success of leadership depends on the readiness of the leader to lead by example and the followers to accept and execute directives from the leader. Emphasizing on the indispensability of leadership, Talleyrand cited in (Robbins & Judge, 2013) opined that “I am more afraid of an army of 100 led by a lion than an army of lions led by a sheep”. This statement portends that leadership is a core need towards achieving set objectives of the state or organizations and therefore should be undertaken by people of courage and character Further, Robbins and Judge (2013.p.402) highlighted on influence as a major component of leadership which is the actual force that propels group towards the achievement of the vision. Leadership is about mobilizing a group or adopting a non coercive strategy to coordinate and direct the behaviour or activities of a group towards meeting the collective goals of the state, group or organization (Griffin & Moorhead, 2007.p318).

Leadership has been described as a dynamic process that involves the deployment of influence and motivation, completely devoid of force or coercion to encourage group members to function towards achieving the goals of the organization (Onah 2014). According to Armstrong (2012), leadership is an act of inspiring and encouraging people to put in their best performance in order to achieve a desired result. Similarly, Tamkin et al, cited in Armstrong (2012,p.310), affirmed that skills like “ability to inspire others; persuade others willingly to behave differently; clarify what needs to be done and why; communicate a sense of purpose to their team” should be domiciled in a leader. Leadership is therefore the ability to lure group members to act or behave in a way that will ensure desired results.

### **Infrastructure/Social Amenities**

There are two types of infrastructure; the soft and hard infrastructure. Infrastructure is a physical installation that offers numerous socio-economic supports to human existence. Responsible and responsive Governments are usually worried when there is paucity of critical infrastructure in the state because it is the engine of development and growth. Job creation, one of the important achievements and pride of government cannot be realized without existence of functional infrastructure (Ngulube, 2022). Infrastructure is construed as the fundamental physical facilities in a state such as transportation system, communication network, water, sewage and school systems whose existence facilitates socioeconomic development and prosperity of the people in a locale (Boyle, 2022). It is important to observe and highlight on the enormous social impact of infrastructure because it will help to connect the infrastructure development or its availability to quality of life, standard of living and life expectancy of the citizens (Aguado, 2019).

The existence and relevance of hard and soft infrastructure is key to national socioeconomic development and prosperity. Hard infrastructure relates to physical or tangible amenities which contribute directly or indirectly to the development and growth of the people. Soft infrastructure is akin to the skills and competences of human resource usually deployed in the formulation and implementation of policies leading to provision of hard infrastructure (Quingyang, 2017). The need of both types of infrastructure is high because they are instrumental to productive partnership between or among countries (Maurel et al, 2016).

### **Methodology**

The study made use of both primary and secondary data. Secondary data were sourced through government gazette, published academic works in journals, national tabloids, etc. Primary data were elicited through the distribution of copies of structured questionnaire to the select population which included past and serving government functionaries, the academic community, the Civil Society Organizations, traditional institutions and the Organized Labour in the region. To make this exercise possible, a sample size of 270 respondents (across the state) was determined through the adoption of Taro Yamani formula;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Likert’s response scale: Strongly Agree (SA); Agree (A); Strongly Disagree (SD); Disagree (D) was adopted in the questionnaire as response key to the respondents. Multiple regression and graphical/pictorial analyses were deployed for the analysis of secondary and primary data respectively.



**Data Presentation**

**(a) Presentation of Primary Data**

**Research Questions 1:** Was lack of funds to Imo State LGAs the cause of poor infrastructure development in the rural areas?

Table 1: Response on the lack of funds to Imo State LGAs and poor infrastructure development in the rural areas of the state

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1.	There were fiscal allocations to Imo State LGAs by Federation Account and Allocation Committee (FAAC)	250 (92.60%)	20 (7.40%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	270 (100%)
2.	FAAC was consistent in releasing the fiscal allocations to the LGAs of Imo State for rural development.	200 (74.07%)	67 (24.82%)	3 (1.11%)	0 (0%)	270 (100%)
3.	Fiscal allocations to Imo State LGAs were suspended for a while.	0 (0%)	2 (0.74%)	68 (25.18%)	200 (74.07%)	270 (100%)
4.	FAAC fiscal allocations to Imo State LGAs were enough to provide substantial infrastructure to the rural population.	150 (55.55%)	98 (36.29%)	20 (7.40%)	2 (0.74%)	270 (100%)
5.	Infrastructure situation in the rural areas of Imo State reflect the FAAC fiscal allocations to the LGAs.	3 (1.11%)	8 (2.96%)	85 (31.48%)	164 (60.75%)	270 (100%)
6.	Fiscal allocations for rural infrastructure were paid directly into the accounts of Imo State LGAS.	1 (0.37%)	8 (2.96%)	98 (36.29%)	163 (60.38%)	270 (100%)
7.	LGAs of Imo State have equal access to the SJLGA as the State counterpart.	178 (65.92%)	89 (32.97%)	3 (1.11%)	0 (0%)	270 (100%)
8.	There was free primary and secondary education to the citizens in rural areas of Imo State	190 (70.37%)	75 (27.78%)	2 (0.74%)	3 (1.11%)	270 (100%)

Source: Researcher’s fieldwork, 2023

**Research Questions 2:** To what extent did paucity of infrastructure development in the rural areas of Imo State affect citizen’s standard of living

Table 2: Response on the impact of paucity of infrastructure on the standard of living of citizens in the rural areas

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
9.	Rural areas in Imo state have adequate health care delivery system	20 (7.40%)	15 (5.56%)	110 (40.75%)	125 (46.29%)	270 (100%)
10.	Inadequate health care facilities and personnel affected healthcare delivery to the rural areas of Imo state	150 (55.55%)	105 (38.89%)	5 (1.86%)	10 (3.70%)	270 (100%)
11.	High mortality rate in the rural areas of Imo state is caused by poor access to health care services	106 (39.97%)	89 (32.97%)	25 (9.25%)	50 (18.52%)	270 (100%)
12.	Rural roads in Imo state are motorable	2	8	74	186	270

	both in rain and dry season	(0.74%)	(2.97%)	(27.40%)	(68.89%)	(100%)
13.	Poor state of rural roads in Imo state affected commerce and industry negatively	158 (58.52%)	92 (34.04%)	12 (4.44%)	8 (2.97%)	270 (100%)
14.	Migration of productive youth to the city because of lack of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo state further complicated development problems	185 (68.57%)	70 (25.93%)	14 (5.18%)	1 (0.38%)	270 (100%)
15.	Rural areas in Imo state were affected by rural-urban migration because of paucity of infrastructure	198 (73.33%)	70 (25.93%)	2 (0.74%)	0 (0%)	270 (100%)
16.	There was free primary and secondary education to the citizens in rural areas of Imo State	168 (62.22%)	102 (37.78%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	270 (100%)
17.	Tuition- free primary and secondary education translated to high standard of education in the state	5 (1.86%)	5 (1.86%)	80 (29.62%)	180 (66.66%)	270 (100%)
18.	Lack of electricity in the rural areas negatively affected security of life and property, preservation of farm produce and operation of artisans	178 (65.92%)	90 (33.33%)	1 (0.37%)	1 (0.37%)	270 (100%)

Source: Research's fieldwork, 2023

**Research Question 3:** To what extent did state government political interference on LGAs affect development of infrastructure in the rural areas?

Table 3: Response on impact of state government political domination of LGAs on infrastructural development in the rural areas

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
19.	LGAs in Imo State are fully autonomous	4 (1.48%)	8 (2.97%)	78 (28.89%)	180 (66.66)	270 (100%)
20.	Change of government in Imo State LGAs were done through democratic election	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	109 (40.37%)	161 (59.63%)	270 (100%)
21.	State Chief Executive appointed political loyalists as caretakers of LGAs in Imo State	141 (52.22%)	74 (27.40)	24 (8.89%)	31 (11.49%)	270 (100%)
22.	Appointment and removal of LGA caretakers in Imo State was solely done by the governor	126 (46.66%)	102 (37.79%)	18 (6.66%)	24 (8.89%)	270 (100%)
23.	Frequency at which LGA caretakers were changed by governor affected governance and performance in the grassroots of Imo State	165 (61.11%)	62 (22.97%)	14 (5.18%)	29 (10.74%)	270 (100%)
24.	Local Governments in Imo State were given free hand to prepare, present and implement budgets	2 (0.74%)	4 (1.49%)	120 (44.44%)	144 (53.33%)	270 (100%)
25.	LGAs in Imo State preferred caretakers system of LG administration to democratically elected system	2 (0.74%)	8 (2.97%)	112 (41.48%)	148 (54.81%)	270 (100%)

Source: Research's fieldwork, 2023



**Research Question 4:** Were actions and inactions of both State and Local Government officials responsible for poor state of infrastructure at the grassroots in Imo State?

Table 4: Response on whether poor state of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo State was caused by actions and inactions of both state and LGAS officials

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
26.	State government are solely responsible for poor state of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo State	189 (70%)	76 (28.14%)	2 (0.74%)	3 (1.11%)	270 (100%)
27.	LGAs officials are solely responsible for poor state of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo state	8 (2.97%)	14 (5.18%)	114 (42.22%)	134 (49.63%)	270 (100%)
28.	State government infraction on resources on LGAs was the cause of poor state of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo State	180 (66.67%)	87 (32.22%)	1 (0.37%)	2 (0.74%)	270 (100%)
29.	Leadership irresponsibility was a significant cause of poor infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo State	178 (65.93%)	82 (30.37%)	3 (1.11%)	7 (2.59%)	270 (100%)
30.	Financial corruption on the side of state government was responsible for paucity of infrastructure in the rural areas of Imo State	188 (69.63%)	80 (29.63%)	2 (0.74%)	- (0%)	270 (100%)

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2023

**(b). Data Presentation of Secondary Data**

**Frequency of Dissolution and Appointment (Political Control) of Transition Committee Chairmen in Imo State 2011-2018**

Table 5

SN	YEAR	ACTION	SOURCE
	June 6, 2011	Dissolution of 27 democratically elected chairmen and councilors	Punch, August 30,2018
	January 24,2014	Swearing in 27 TC chairmen	Imo state Government Blog; oruherald. Oruonline News, 2014
	June 30, 2014	Swearing in TC Chairman (Orsu LGA)	New Express, June 30,2014
	July 3,2014	Appointment of TC chairmen	Daily Independent.Lagos,2014
	January 19,2016	Swearing in TC chairmen	ElombahNews, Jan 19,2016
	December 15,2016	Sacking of TC chairmen	Vanguard Dec.2016; Nigeriannewsdirect,2016
	May 30, 2017	Dissolution of 27 TC chairmen	Premium Times, May 30,2017
	December 4,2017	Swearing in TC chairmen	Vanguard; oraclenes, 2017
	April 20, 2018	Sacked Mbaitoli TC chairman	IfeanyiCys Blog, April 20,2018
	May 6, 2018	Fired TC chairman (Ehime Mbanu)	Nairaland, May 6, 2018
	June 27, 2018	Sacked TC chairmen	OtownGist.com, 2018
	N.D	Dissolution of 27 TC chairmen	www.ngjournals.com

Source: Field data, compiled by the author, 2023

**The Following Tables Contain Data on How Much each Local Government Council of Imo State Earned as Federal Allocation in Various Months Spanning 2011 to 2018 Usually Lodged in State Joint Local Government Account (SJLGA)**

Table 6. Federal government allocations to L.GA in IMO state 2011-2013

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN BILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	5,592,419,085.45
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	4,893,694,597.35
3	EHIME MBANO	4,725,559,182.63
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	4,997,483,173.94
5	IDEATO NORTH	5,093,263,185.62
6	IDEATO SOUTH	5,012,503,586.88
7	IHITE UBOMA	4,628,105,741.15
8	IKEDURU	4,995,560,424.90
9	ISIALA MBANO	5,577,420,777.89
10	ISU	5,011,558,318.56
11	MBAITOLI	5,900,278,353.78
12	NGOR/OKPALA	5,182,836,304.63
13	NJABA	4,819,954,493.86
14	NWANGELE	4,659,850,212. 82
15	NKWERRE	4,085,707,232.35
16	OBOWO	4,462,812,285.27
17	OGUTA	5,104,875,269.83
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	5,373,005,346.56
19	OKIGWE	4,804,445,947.19
20	ONUIMO	4,371,098,781.40
21	ORLU	4,759,970,822.05
22	ORSU	4,547,088,244.85
23	ORU	4,706,100,105.04
24	ORU WEST	4,646,145,112.23
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	4,622,099,470.68
26	OWERRI NORTH	5,103,710,965.71
27	OWERRI WEST	4,782,559,065.16

Source: Adapted from thenigerianvoice.com (august 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

Table 7. January 2018 federation allocation to IMO local government councils

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	157,550,442.37
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	148,561,973.05
3	EHIME MBANO	136,420,478.10
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	145,501,818.06
5	IDEATO NORTH	153,516,946.44
6	IDEATO SOUTH	154,025,607.12
7	IHITE UBOMA	138,464,381.21
8	IKEDURU	146,854,816.02
9	ISIALA MBANO	164,752,268.00
10	ISU	147,105,158.10

11	MBAITOLI	179,196,421.11
12	NGOR/OKPALA	152,469,434.40
13	NJABA	139,575,217.18
14	NWANGELE	135,558,831.07
15	NKWERRE	120,721,262.96
16	OBOWO	131,187,991.48
17	OGUTA	151,027,247.06
18	OHAI/EGBEMA	163,612,318.58
19	OKIGWE	143,981,192.35
20	ONUIMO	128,888,957.22
21	ORLU	141,928,909.50
22	ORSU	137,434,537.79
23	ORU	133,287,538.20
24	ORU WEST	137,351,392.65
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	138,961,358.25
26	OWERRI NORTH	149,064,509.18
27	OWERRI WEST	131,829,387.14
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,909,504,214.59</b>

Source: Office of the accountant- general of the federation

Table 8. January 2016 Federal Allocation to Local Government Councils of IMO State

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	101,275,297.76
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	95,530,971.72
3	EHIME MBANO	87,724,094.59
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	93,597,951.52
5	IDEATO NORTH	98,507,606.17
6	IDEATO SOUTH	98,833,205.73
7	IHITE UBOMA	88,915,367.69
8	IKEDURU	94,317,248.63
9	ISIALA MBANO	105,756,111.86
10	ISU	94,582,34 7.50
11	MBAITOLI	114,980,112.24
12	NGOR/OKPALA	97,870,218.38
13	NJABA	89,780,113.43
14	NWANGELE	87,172,807.51
15	NKWERRE	77,636,206.72
16	OBOWO	84,389,216.86
17	OGUTA	96,854,411.02
18	OHAI/EGBEMA	104,932,685.88
19	OKIGWE	92,414,182.19
20	ONUIMO	82,831,320.35
21	ORLU	91,219,830.98
22	ORSU	88,272,441.96
23	ORU	85,645,721.04
24	ORU WEST	88,202,720.40

25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	89,270,043.94
26	OWERRI NORTH	95,874,728.36
27	OWERRI WEST	84,651,769.30
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,511,038,733.72</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

Table.9. February 2018 federal allocation to local government councils in IMO state

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	155,676,912.78
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	146,835,639.11
3	EHIME MBANO	134,854,227.66
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	143,844,068.00
5	IDEATO NORTH	151,554,583.05
6	IDEATO SOUTH	152,554,583.80
7	IHITE UBOMA	136,770,950.76
8	IKEDURU	145,056,387.33
9	ISIALA MBANO	162,661,572.54
10	ISU	145,388,326.17
11	MBAITOLI	176,863,538.33
12	NGOR/OKPALA	150,550,358.00
13	NJABA	137,989,848.66
14	NWANGELE	134,006,178.95
15	NKWERRE	119,367,362.82
16	OBOWO	129,712,985.35
17	OGUTA	149,055,037.58
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	161,462,911.18
19	OKIGWE	142,175,508.19
20	ONUIMO	127,381,186.09
21	ORLU	140,252,415.52
22	ORSU	135,770,383.94
23	ORU	131,710,481.39
24	ORU WEST	135,675,078.41
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	137,290,011.86
26	OWERRI NORTH	147,348,369.08
27	OWERRI WEST	130,225,595.13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,717,835,030.08</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

Table 10. March 2017 federal allocation to local government councils in Imo state

S/N	LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	113,415,335.38
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	107,014,513.91
3	EHIME MBANO	98,261,837.27
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	104,886,130.56
5	IDEATO NORTH	110,117,100.49
6	IDEATO SOUTH	110,480,504.54

7	IHITTE UBOMA	99,459,638.06
8	IKEDURU	105,523,684.68
9	ISIALA MBANO	118,270,988.63
10	ISU	105,523,694.68
11	MBAITOLI	105,937,624.61
12	NGOR/OKPALA	128,541,341.84
13	NJABA	100,597,865.35
14	NWANGELE	97,646,837.84
15	NKWERRE	86,959,168.15
16	OOWO	94,558,960.64
17	OGUTA	108,204,956.08
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	117,246,426.47
19	OKIGWE	103,327,987.11
20	ONUIMO	92,720,181.52
21	ORLU	102,129,368.23
22	ORSU	98,760,403.34
23	ORU	95,860,024.34
24	ORU WEST	98,664,010.19
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	99,896,652.04
26	OWERRI NORTH	107,423,043.94
27	OWERRI WEST	94,682,470.05
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,810,030,085.71</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

table 11. April 2017 federal allocation to local government councils in Imo state

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	103,108,212.79
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	97,336,515.84
3	EHIME MBANO	98,366,418.38
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	95,454,363.08
5	IDEATO NORTH	99,823,551.23
6	IDEATO SOUTH	100,152,103.20
7	IHITTE UBOMA	90,229,573.86
8	IKEDURU	95,791,588.70
9	ISIALA MBANO	101,267,630.81
10	ISU	96,336,682.76
11	MBAITOLI	116,537,086.78
12	NGOR/OKPALA	99,260,131.06
13	NJABA	91,538,104.73
14	NWANGELE	88,810,838.82
15	NKWERRE	79,084,942.50
16	OOWO	86,046,521.91
17	OGUTA	97,117,848.86
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	106,208,599.50
19	OKIGWE	93,702,775.19

20	ONUIMO	84,239,379.66
21	ORLU	92,813,638.57
22	ORSU	89,652,943.96
23	ORU	87,076,120.57
24	ORU WEST	89,538,920.22
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	90,713,240.61
26	OWERRI NORTH	97,974,834.47
27	OWERRI WEST	85,912,808.34
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,551,799,514.49</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

Table 12. March 2014 federal allocation to local government councils in imo state

S/N	LOCAL GOV'T	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	144,336,152.18
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	135,948,634.80
3	EHIME MBANO	124,894,279.18
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	133,106,917.13
5	IDEATO NORTH	140,746,495.63
6	IDEATO SOUTH	141,035,362.48
7	IHITE UBOMA	126,760,342.84
8	IKEDURU	134,528,883.65
9	ISIALA MBANO	150,979,459.08
10	ISU	134,577,282.37
11	MBAITOLI	164,197,026.20
12	NGOR/OKPALA	139,779,630.39
13	NJABA	127,715,514.37
14	NWANGELE	124,107,744.02
15	NKWERRE	110,433,322.05
16	OOWO	120,008,842.29
17	OGUTA	138,446,823.21
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	149,970,597.39
19	OKIGWE	131,959,670.00
20	ONUIMO	117,979,953.00
21	ORLU	129,859,524.48
22	ORSU	125,836,678.20
23	ORU	122,158,754.74
24	ORU WEST	125,806,569.78
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	127,212,056.44
26	OWERRI NORTH	136,380,170.31
27	OWERRI WEST	120,990,170.31
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,579,639,249.82</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

Table 13. March 2013 federal allocation to local government councils in Imo state



S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	177,193,999 .58
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	161,596,750.89
3	EHIME MBANO	150,196,042.16
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	160,001,995.33
5	IDEATO NORTH	163,480,241.80
6	IDEATO SOUTH	159,380,791.73
7	IHITE UBOMA	146,896,909.25
8	IKEDURU	158,397,498.97
9	ISIALA MBANO	176,792,538.75
10	ISU	159,253,395.12
11	MBAITOLI	186,826,820.77
12	NGOR/OKPALA	164,012,443.29
13	NJABA	153,608,799.37
14	NWANGELE	147,981,132.65
15	NKWERRE	130,028,366.30
16	OBOWO	144,214,411.93
17	OGUTA	161,688,229.64
18	OHAJI/EBEMA	170,451,858.69
19	OKIGWE	153,970,671.65
20	ONUIMO	140,041,292.62
21	ORLU	150,884,701.16
22	ORSU	145,920,264.44
23	ORU	149,328,592.50
24	ORU WEST	148,851,160.78
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	148,503,660.67
26	OWERRI NORTH	161,500,794.25
27	OWERRI WEST	151,593,121.03
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,222,596,465.81</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –general of the federation

Table 14. June 2015 federal allocation to local government councils in Imo state

S/N	LOCAL GOVT	ALLOCATIONS (IN MILLIONS)
1	ABOH MBAISE	215,823,180.32
2	AHIAZU MBAISE	203,323,722.50
3	EHIME MBANO	156,732,109.96
4	EZINIHITE MBAISE	198,928,814.15
5	IDEATO NORTH	211,383,219.47
6	IDEATO SOUTH	212,087,430.49
7	IHITE UBOMA	190,281,744.80
8	IKEDURU	210,704,968.50
9	ISIALA MBANO	226,587,137.95
10	ISU	201,406,218.23
11	MBAITOLI	246,715,767.84
12	NGOR/OKPALA	209,729, 374.62
13	NJABA	190,873,464.44

14	NWANGELE	185,537,760.71
15	NKWERRE	165,238,347.02
16	OBOWO	179,379,553.05
17	OGUTA	206,303,204.06
18	OHAJI/EGBEMA	225,580,013.52
19	OKIGWE	198,118,867.43
20	ONUIMO	176,748,275.09
21	ORLU	194,543,442.60
22	ORSU	188,755,943.26
23	ORU	182,844,260.97
24	ORU WEST	199,742,391.38
25	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	190,744,719.16
26	OWERRI NORTH	203,883,485.17
27	OWERRI WEST	181,198,600.30
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,365,201,309.29</b>

Source: Office of the accountant –genrenal of the federation

**Data Analysis**

Table 15: New table for analysis (allocation in months for all the local governments in Imo state)

S/N (LG A)	Y	X1 (2011)	X2 (2012)	X3 (2013)	X4 (2014)	X5 (2015)	X6 (2016)	X7 (2017)	X8 (2018)
1	5592419 085	1031082 13	1556769 13	1771940 00	1443361 52	2158231 80	1012752 98	1134153 35	1575504 42
2	4893694 597	9733651 6	1468356 39	1615967 51	1359486 35	2033237 23	9553097 2	1070145 14	1485619 73
3	4725559 183	9836641 8	1348542 28	1501960 42	1248942 79	1567321 10	8772409 5	9826183 7	1364204 78
4	4997483 174	9545436 3	1438440 68	1600019 95	1331069 17	1989288 14	9359795 2	1048861 31	1455018 18
5	5093263 186	9982355 1	1515545 83	1634802 42	1407464 96	2113832 19	9850760 6	1101171 00	1535169 46
6	5012503 587	1001521 03	1525545 84	1593807 92	1410353 62	2120874 30	9883320 6	1104805 05	1540256 07
7	4628105 741	9022957 4	1367709 51	1468969 09	1267603 43	1902817 45	8891536 8	9945963 8	1384643 81
8	4995560 425	9579158 9	1450563 87	1583974 99	1345288 84	2107049 69	9431724 9	1055236 85	1468548 16
9	5577420 778	1012676 31	1626615 73	1767925 39	1509794 59	2265871 38	1057561 12	1182709 89	1647522 68
10	5011558 319	9633668 3	1453883 26	1592533 95	1345772 82	2014062 18	9458234 8	1055236 95	1471051 58
11	5900278 354	1165370 87	1768635 38	1868268 21	1641970 26	2467157 68	1149801 12	1059376 25	1791964 21
12	5182836 305	9926013 1	1505503 58	1640124 43	1397796 30	2097293 75	9787021 8	1285413 42	1524694 34

13	4819954 494	9153810 5	1379898 49	1536087 99	1277155 14	1908734 64	8978011 3	1005978 65	1395752 17
14	4659850 213	8881083 9	1340061 79	1479811 33	1241077 44	1855377 61	8717280 8	9764683 8	1355588 31
15	4085707 232	7908494 3	1193673 63	1300283 66	1104333 22	1652383 47	7763620 7	8695916 8	1207212 63
16	4462812 285	8604652 2	1297129 85	1442144 12	1200088 42	1793795 53	8438921 7	9455896 0	1311879 91
17	5104875 270	9711784 9	1490550 38	1616882 30	1384468 23	2063032 04	9685441 1	1082049 56	1510272 47
18	5373005 347	1062086 00	1614629 11	1704518 59	1499705 97	2255800 14	1049326 86	1172464 26	1636123 19
19	4804445 947	9370277 5	1421755 08	1539706 72	1319596 70	1981188 67	9241418 2	1033279 87	1439811 92
20	4371098 781	8423938 0	1273811 86	1400412 93	1179799 53	1767482 75	8283132 0	9272018 2	1288889 57
21	4759970 822	9281363 9	1402524 16	1508847 01	1298595 24	1945434 43	9121983 1	1021293 68	1419289 10
22	4547088 245	8965294 4	1357703 84	1459202 64	1258366 78	1887559 43	8827244 2	9876040 3	1374345 38
23	4706100 105	8707612 1	1317104 81	1493285 93	1221587 55	1828442 61	8564572 1	9586002 4	1332875 38
24	4646145 112	8953892 0	1356797 8	1488511 60	1258065 69	1997423 91	8820272 0	9866401 0	1373513 92
25	4622099 471	9071324 1	1372900 12	1485036 61	1272120 56	1907447 19	8927004 4	9989665 2	1389613 58
26	5103710 966	9797483 4	1473483 69	1615007 94	1363801 70	2038834 85	9587472 8	1074230 43	1490645 09
27	4782559 065	8591280 8	1302255 95	1515931 21	1209901 70	1811986 00	8465176 9	9468247 0	1318293 87

### **Test of Hypothesis**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Lack of fund to Imo State LGAs was not the cause of poor infrastructural development in its rural areas

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Lack of fund to Imo State LGAs was the cause of poor infrastructural development in its rural areas.

### **Decision Rule**

If Sig. is < 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. If Sig. is > 0.05, then the null hypothesis is not rejected. If a null hypothesis is rejected, it means there is a significant effect. However, if a null hypothesis is not rejected, it means there is no significance.

**Results and Discussion of Results**

Regression Analysis: Y versus X1, X2, X3, X4, X5, X6, X7, X8

Table 16: Analysis of variance

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Regression	8	2.72180E+19	3.40225E+18	1417.35	0.000
X1	1	1.43069E+13	1.43069E+13	0.01	0.939
X2	1	2.76162E+14	2.76162E+14	0.12	0.738
X3	1	3.86094E+16	3.86094E+16	16.08	0.001
X4	1	1.32749E+14	1.32749E+14	0.06	0.817
X5	1	1.58567E+14	1.58567E+14	0.07	0.800
X6	1	6.53181E+13	6.53181E+13	0.03	0.871
X7	1	3.11469E+13	3.11469E+13	0.01	0.911
X8	1	1.77911E+12	1.77911E+12	0.00	0.979
Error	19	4.56082E+16	2.40043E+15		
Total	27	2.72636E+19			

Result from table 16 showed that the P-value/ Sig value is significant at Regression variable and variable x3 because their P-values are 0.000 and 0.001 respectively hence  $H_0$  is rejected.

Result on the F-value represents an improvement in the prediction of the variable by fitting the model after considering the inaccuracy present in the model. Regression variable and variable x3 are greater than 1 for the F-ratio which yield efficient model.

Table 17: Model summary

S	R-sq	R-sq(adj)	R-sq(pred)
48994181	99.83%	99.76%	85.68%

Result from Table 17 is the Model Summary which was generated from the linear regression test in SPSS. It provides detail about the characteristics of the model. In the present case, monthly income of all the 27 LGA's from 2011 - 2018 was the main variables considered.

Interpretation of the Elements Results:

- R-square shows the total variation for the dependent variable that could be explained by the independent variables. A value greater than 50% shows that the model is effective enough to determine the relationship. In this case, the value is 99.83% which is very good.
- Adjusted R-square shows the generalization of the results i.e. the variation of the sample results from the population in multiple regression. It is required to have a difference between R-square and Adjusted R-square minimum. In this case, the value is 99.76%, which is not far off from 99.83%, so it is a good fit.

Therefore, the model summary table is satisfactory.

Table 18: Coefficients

Term	Coef	SE Coef	T-Value	P-Value	VIF
Constant	-5636065	46760775	-0.12	0.905	
X1	-0.60	7.74	-0.08	0.939	253.92
X2	0.169	0.498	0.34	0.738	3.99
X3	31.98	7.97	4.01	0.001	726.61
X4	78	333	0.24	0.817	942702.39
X5	-0.67	2.61	-0.26	0.800	134.28
X6	-84	512	-0.16	0.871	1091229.23
X7	-0.20	1.72	-0.11	0.911	15.42
X8	-17	618	-0.03	0.979	3869027.81

Table 18 above shows the strength of the relationship i.e. the significance of the variable in the model and magnitude with which it impacts the dependent variable. This analysis helps in performing the hypothesis testing for the study.

Result from table 18 shows that variables x1, x2, x4, x5, x6, x7 and x8 have no significant effect as lack of fund was not the cause of poor infrastructural development in its rural areas. Since the P-values are 0.939, 0.738, 0.817, 0.800, 0.871, 0.911 and 0.979 respectively, hence we fail to reject  $H_0$ .

While only Variable x3 with P-value 0.001 showed a significant effect that lack of fund was the reason for the poor infrastructural development in the rural areas.

### Regression Equation

$$-5636065 - 0.60 X1 + 0.169 X2 + 31.98 X3 + 78 X4 - 0.67 X5 - 84 X6 - 0.20 X7 - 17 X8$$

Table 19: ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	40060628133496 30500.000	6	66767713555827 1740.000	272.849	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	48941235222932 120.000	20	24470617611466 06.000		
Total	40550040485725 62400.000	26			

a. Dependent Variable: VAR00001

b. Predictors: (Constant), VAR00009, VAR00003, VAR00008, VAR00006, VAR00004, VAR00002

Result from table 19 showed that the Sig value is 0.000 which is significant hence  $H_0$  is rejected.

Result on the F-value represents an improvement in the prediction of the variable by fitting the model after considering the inaccuracy present in the model. The F-ratio yields efficient model.

### Durbin-Watson Statistic

$$\text{Durbin-Watson Statistic} = 2.29364$$

The Durbin Watson (DW) statistic is a test for autocorrelation in the residuals from a statistical model or regression analysis. The Durbin-Watson statistic result 2.29364 shows a negative autocorrelation.

Fig 1: Norm Plot of Residuals for Y

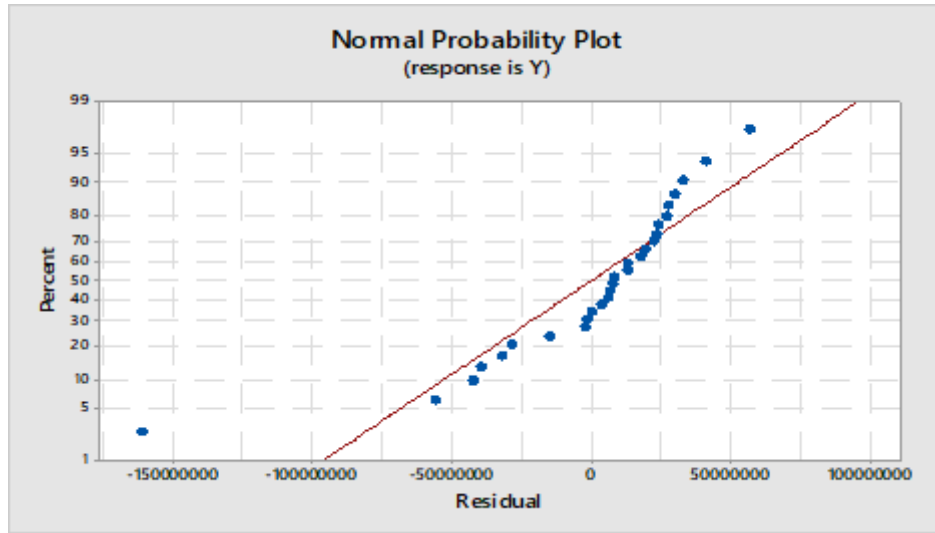


Fig. 1 Shows That The Normal Probability Plot Is Normally Distributed

### Fig 2: Residuals Vs Fits For Y

Fig 2 of Residuals Versus Fit plot for Y verifies the assumption that the residuals are randomly distributed and have constant variance.

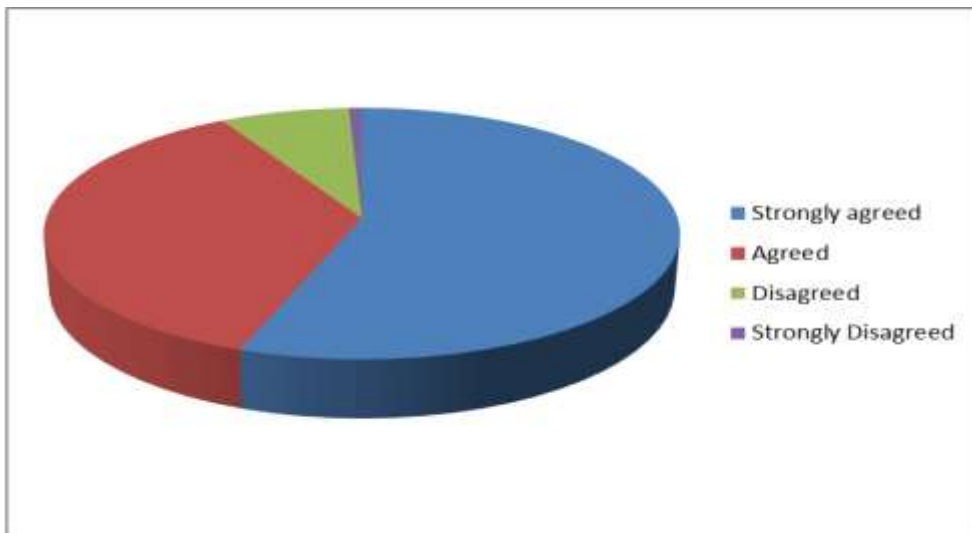


Fig 3: Poor state of rural roads in imo state affected commercer and industry negatively



This Pie Chart also supports the objective that poor state of rural development also affects Commerce and Industry negatively.

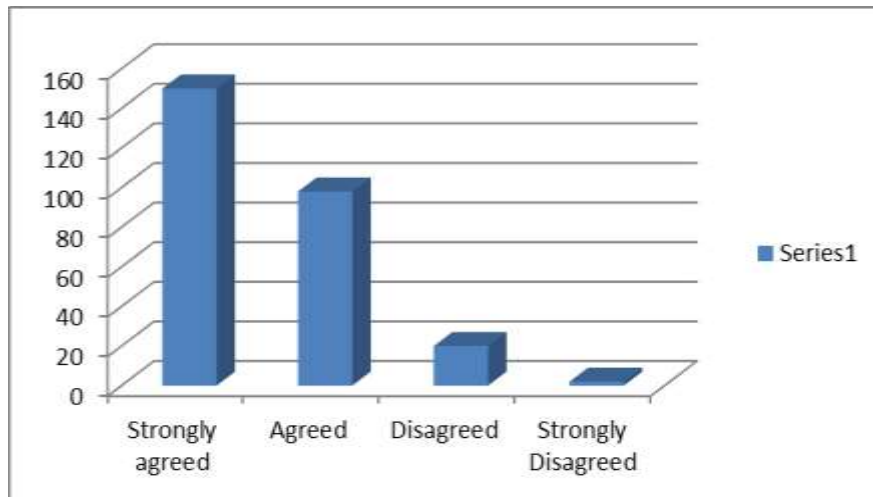


Fig 4: FAAC: Fiscal allocations to Imo state lgas were enough to provide substantial infrastructure to the rural population

Results from all the Statistical tools used for analysis in this study indicate the significance of adequate monthly fiscal allocation released to the Local Government areas of Imo State from the years 2011 to 2018. Evidence proved that poor development of infrastructure and other social amenities at the Rural Areas are as a result of embezzlement of fund and indifferent attitude of those in authority and gap in transformative leadership in the state within the time capsule of this study.

### **Conclusion and Policy Recommendation**

According to literature, the nexus between service delivery to the citizens and availability of funds for the purpose is significantly established. However, other concerns such as; whether the allocated resources are really channeled to the right place or not; the attitude of the officials towards achieving the designed task or the level of commitment of officials to achieve efficiency, abound. The issue of embezzlement, undoubtedly, can cause real setback to the realization of the development projects for which reason financial allocations are made. All the tests conducted in this study robustly proved that adequate financial allocations were made to the Imo State Government which it was statutorily obligated to transfer to its local government areas for grassroots development. Tables showing monthly and yearly allocations to the local government areas of the state are evident to this claim. Data collected through questionnaire and analyzed equally lent credence to the assertion, thus raising a rather disturbing paradoxical scenario of adequate provision of funds for rural development, yet nothing practical to justify the funds spent.

The study has it empirically that three factors account for the above-stated disturbing scenario. First, misappropriation or embezzlement of funds earmarked for the purpose by state officials. Second, lack of political will of the state administration to grant political, administrative and financial (decentralization) freedom to the local government areas. Three, there was apparent indifference on the side of state officials which led to serious lacuna in transformative leadership that gave birth to administrative inefficiency. Contrary to freelance assumptions, the study has proved that there is a strong correlation between gap in leadership and poor infrastructure/social amenities presence in the local

government areas of Imo State. Thus, the study has contributed in empirically and robustly refuting the popularly held notion by the political elites that lack of funds accounts for the poor state of development at the grassroots in the state.

It is noteworthy that the study investigated the political dispensation or administration of past state government (2011-2018) whose outcome the study intends to present as policy advice to the present government in order to correct the maladministration that led to the infrastructure/social amenities woes in the local government areas of the state. The current administration should identify the key reasons for poor state of infrastructure/social amenities in the local government areas of the state revealed by the study and give them political and institutional solutions. The state government should devise effective means of curbing its officials' infractions into statutory funds meant for rural development. Stiff regulations should be made and enforced to serve as deterrence. Besides, the indifferent attitudes of state official, poor leadership quality (lacking transformation) should be tackled using institutional-cum-legal remedy. The local government staff should, however, desist from being direct or indirect accomplices to the leadership apathy of the state officials towards the transformation of local government areas in the state.

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