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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES OF WARD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT IN BIDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NIGER STATE FROM 2008 TO 2014

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Abstract
This study is on assessment of the infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida local government area of Niger state. The objectives of this study were to examine the impact of ward development project on grassroots development in infrastructural facilities in Bida local government area of Niger State. The data for the study were generated from primary and secondary sources. The instruments of the primary data collection used were questionnaire and while secondary sources used are reports, journals. Questionnaires were distributed on a sample of 384 respondents selected from 318,300 population of the study through stratified sampling technique. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Regression analysis tests result revealed that there is positive significant relationship between the infrastructural facilities of ward development projects and grassroots development. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that government should sustain the policy so that infrastructural development can reach out more in the study area and Niger State as a whole. It was also recommended that the Government should be up and doing to checkmate the activities of awarded projects for accountability.

Keyword: Infrastructure, Ward, Development, Projects, Grassroots

Introduction

One of the major characteristics of the developing countries is the increasing disparity between the Urban and Rural areas. Thus, the gap according to Akpomovie et al Benedit (2010) has its root in the neo-classical economic theories which presumed that "development can be accelerated by concentrating investments in the cities.

Participation and other related concepts like sustainability and empowerment are the center of development discourse (Black, 2003) and may be argued that participants is as old as democracy itself. The people at grassroots level especially the rural dwellers are the most deprived and neglected, in that they have least access to essential services such as health, education, housing and other services. In essence, infrastructural and institutional arrangements are deficient at the local level where most people who need them live (Leah Adefila et al Yusuf, 2014).

In Nigeria, the creation of local government was deliberately designed to bring government closer to the people and to ensure maximum participation of the citizens in the development process, promote balanced development so that third tier of government will be more responsive to the development aspiration of local commodities. In essence, local government institutions have been established to accelerate the pace of development. Development whether social, political or economic becomes meaningful and real only when it stems from the lowest level or grassroots level.

Local governments therefore have been created as deliberate attempt to introduce a decentralized approach towards rational integration, efficient and effective government and creating a sense of belonging at the grassroots. Thus, local government system was designed to be a means or strategy of bringing development at the grassroots level.

However, Niger State government came up with the idea of ward development project policy in 2008 and the objective of the policy was to address the problem of under development in the state especially in terms of Infrastructure building which has been an issue in the state for decade, the other objective is actualization of participatory decision making by the people on matters concerning them and let the people decide what they need for themselves and actively participate in its execution, ownership and sustainability (Directorate of Ward Development Project Document, 2009).

During this plan period, each of the 274 wards in the state used to be given five hundred thousand naira and later reviewed to one million naira from the state – local government joint account every month to execute any project of its choice. It was obvious that the program was one of the best grassroots oriented development program introduced in recent times. It was a bottom – up approach to development which made it more integrative and promotes good governance.

Development of the grassroots has long been neglected; investments in infrastructures have been focused largely in the cities. As a result the rural population has extremely limited access to portable drinking water, a situation that led to massive migration to the urban area by the rural dwellers in search of greener pastures for better living condition (UNDP, 2010). These negative indicators suggest a level, but then, since about 70% of the population live in the rural government have huge responsibilities of ensuring that development has reached the grassroots so as to engender the much needed socio-economic turnaround that the people so desire.

The desire to stimulate development at the grassroots level is not only a concern for Niger State but Nigeria at large. This is so because injecting development into the grassroots is seen as imperative mechanism of achieving sustainable national development in order to efficiently and effectively solve the problem of infrastructure decay in rural and urban settlement of the state.

It is therefore not only important but necessary that people are involved to avoid people disassociation with projects. However, in order to ensure that community members were participating actively in the process of ward development projects policy implementation, Ward Development Projects Committee (WDPC) were established across the entire 274 wards in the state to serve as a mechanism for people's involvement in the identification and implementation of the projects that have direct bearing in their lives. The committee was to serve as a link between the government and the people. They were to collectively discuss or matter that were of paramount importance, after which they communicated the stand of the community members (i.e the projects they needed) to Local Government Project Advisory and Monitoring Committee (LGPAMC) for approval and final implementation. In spite of this strategy put in place to ensure active participation of the community people and or target beneficiaries of the policy, the issue of community participation is still at its ebb.
It is against this background that this study was conducted with a view to assessing the impact of infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida Local Government area of Niger State from 2008 to 2014.

The major objective of this study is to carry out a baseline survey to assess the impact of infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State from 2008 to 2014. The specific objective is to:

i. Examine the impact of Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study from 2008 to 2014:

i. Do the Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects have any impact on grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State?

Significance of the Study

This study assessed the impact of Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida Local Government area of Niger State. Thus, the study has provided to the policy actors the feasible recommendations on the importance of the implementation of ward development projects and its contributions to the grassroots development particularly in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State and the justification for selecting this one area was on urban basis. The study covered the period of seven (7) years. The period was selected to cover the implementation period of ward development projects from 2008 to 2014.
In addition, the study also provided to the policy actor knowledge of the measures needed to put in place to improve the participation of the local people in development processes. The study discovered

that policy instrument succeeded in gradual transformation of the community infrastructure in the local government and state at large despite the unnecessary interference of the politicians at the local government and ward levels in the process of policy execution and committee constitution. Thus, this study was embarked upon that covered the areas of Bida Local Government Area of Niger State, hence the study is of paramount important to the people of these localities. The research also identified period of coverage as one of the important gaps that this research has filled. At theoretical level however, the findings of the study provided us with a new knowledge and the basis for further. Otinche (2015) examine how ward development projects enhance State-community relations in Niger State (2009-2010). The methodology adopted for the study was not specified and the data he used were all obtained from secondary source. In his major finding, the policy as failed to yield the desire result because of inconsistency in financing the program, thus, he recommended that the Niger State Government should sustainably fund the program as this will enhance its legitimacy.

Conceptual clarification

Infrastructural Facilities

Fulmer (2007) sees infrastructural facilities as the physical components of interrelated system providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain or enhance societal living condition. Operationally, infrastructural facilities are social amenities capable of serving the need of the general masses. They are provision of roads, healthcare centres, school, electricity and water.

Infrastructure investment is an important driving force to achieve rapid and sustained economic growth. The presence of sufficient infrastructure bill require for the modernization and commercialization of agriculture and achievement of income surplus for capital accumulation. It can provide a basis for the expansion of local manufacturing industries as well as enlarging market for the output of these industries. Many studies have found positive relationship between the level of economic development (measured by per capital income and other indicators), and quality of housing and access to basic amenities like electricity, safe drinking water, toilet (Human development report of India, 2011).

The term infrastructure has come to technical structures that support society, such as Road Bridge, water supply, sewer, electricity, grids, telecommunication etc (Shehu, 2005).

Impact of Infrastructure on Development

Infrastructure development is also a key aspect that is used to measure leader's performance in a country (Oyedele, 2012). The concept is referring to the provision of fundamental infrastructural facilities such as the construction of road and highways, availability of transportation, bridges, health care facilities, adequate power supply and telecommunication systems (Mariggat, Zain et al Jamaludding, 2018).

Today, infrastructure development has become a much-debated topic since scholars from various countries have utilized aspect of infrastructure development as a parameter and index to measure the ability of each country to compete globally (Opawole, Jayboo, Babalola et al Babatunde, 2012). This is mainly because; access to basic, adequate facilities is viewed as strongly related to the wellbeing of general population into the country.

Infrastructure facilities within the contextual framework of this study are social amenities capable of serving the needs of the general masses. They are roads, health care centers, schools, electricity and water project executed in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

Ward Development Projects

Ward Development Project is a programme of grassroots development whereby the will of the people is united with the resource of government to improve the living standard of the communities through the provision of basic necessities such as, water supply, feeder roads, drainages primary and secondary school classrooms and clinics (DWDP, 2009).

Nature of Grassroots Development

Grassroots development according to Odo (2014) is viewed as a self-generating process of socio-economic and political development in which the rural habitants themselves are actively involved and share in the cost and benefits of such development. The essential element of grassroots development

include poverty reduction, rising incomes, increase in health and nutrition status of the people, provision of quantitative and qualitative basic of education, improved agricultural activities, provision of infrastructural facilities, among others. Grassroots development is the responsibility of the local government with the active cooperation of the state and federal governments, aimed at improving the welfare of masses within its areas of jurisdiction.

Ibrahim (1980) defined grassroots development as the process by which the standard of living at the grassroots level is enhanced politically and economically. This definition views grassroots development as a multi-dimensional process involving important changes in social structure.

Njideke (2012) sees grassroots development as a process whereby the government of a country through it third tier , which is the local government, ensure that standard of living of the people in a particular locality and their economic status are improved through various means including the extension of credit facilities to encourage the establishment of small and medium enterprises.

Local Government and Grassroots Development

It is obvious fact that local government system is best positioned to enhanced development at the grassroots. As defined in the 1976 local government reform. It is the government at the local level exercised through representative council established by law to exercise specific power within defined areas. These power should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff, the institutional and financial power to initiate and direct the provision and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal government in their areas and ensure through active participation of the people and their traditional institutions that lo0cal initiatives and resources to local needs are maximized (Njidaka 2012).

This implies that local government at the grassroots has legal existence enshrined in the constitution. Its existence is further strengthened by section 7 (1) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria which state that the system of local government by the democratically elected government council is under this constitution guaranteed and accordingly, the government of every state shall ensure their existence under a law which provides for the establishment of structure, composition and finance and functio0n of such council (Njideka, 2012).

Local government or government at the grassroots level plays a crucial role in the development of the grassroots. The local government system, as third tier of government has various functions that are constitutionally assigned to it. These include:

a. The formulation of economic plans and development schemes for the local government
b. Establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, burial ground and homes for the destitute or infirm
c. Establishment, maintenance and regulating of slaughter house, slaughter slabs, markets, motor park and public conveniences
d. Construction and maintenance of public conveniences, sewage and refuse disposal

In spite of this seemly uniform flow of revenue pattern to local governments, the problems of inadequate revenue differ from place to place. These differences are related to size, structure and varied attitude of state government. in some urban local government their financial problem are related to inadequate exploitation of the available channels in the case of rural local government it usually lack of adequate financial resources to explore (Njideka, 2012).

Fiscal Management and Grassroots Development

Fiscal management and grassroots development implies judicious combination and utilization of financial resources (internal and external) available to a nation, state or local government to attain set goals by designated authorities with the managerial tools of planning, organizing directing and controlling for the benefit and development of the people it is the process of ensuring that money is available at the right time at the least cost and that it is most effectively utilized in the public interest.

In the light of the above discussion effective and efficient fiscal management for grassroots development means the art of working with people for the attainment of goal as stipulated in the constitution of federal republic of Nigeria, the financial memoranda/ instructions act and regulations guiding both generation and utilization of financial resources. Thus the basic tools for achieving these are human being the designated fiscal authorities and all ancillary works needed to carry out fiscal responsibility their guide is the regulations provided by the constitutions of the federal republic of

Nigeria the financial memoranda and various act and financial guidelines. Their schedule among other is to ensure effective and judicious utilizations of public resources (Njideka, 2012).

Their duty is to carry out their constitutional by blocking any loopholes which could be exploited to fritter away or misappropriate available resources it is the position of this discourse that if procedures and of effective fiscal management are thoroughly understood with needed innovation to be made, along with factors underlining their effective application, the existing trend of abused and ineffectiveness will be reversed in favour of careful implementation and prudent fiscal management, thereby resulting in optimized programme/project delivery and accountability. The end result will improve the standard of living for Nigerians and enhance development at the grassroots.

Grassroots Development as a Strategy for Sustainable Development

The Inter-American foundation (2011) defines grassroots development as a participatory process that addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental problems or needs within a given geo graphical territory (municipality, province district region etc) for the sake of improving the residents quality of life grassroots leaders include institutions and organization acting systematically within a territory to address priority communities needs examples include local government non-government organization community association, foundations educational institution and civil society entitles such as representatives from the private commercial sector and other public or private institutions having presences in a given locations (Moore,1998).

The Niger State Government under Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu's dispensation realized the need to apply the grassroots development strategy as an effective strategy for carrying out sustainable, long term activities to improves the quality of life of low income population and community in general it is a means of mobilizing local and national resources while strengthening democratic practice and local solidarity moreover local development offers citizen the opportunity to create a common vision and determine priorities for public investment in their community local development depends on the state reform or policies that ensure decentralization open and direct elections of local authorities and respect for the rule of law it was in line with this idea that ward development project was initiated in Niger state and local government so that development could reach grassroots level and the community will have sense of ownership for the project executed and consequently the new participatory policy could be sustained.

Concept of Community Development

One of the cornerstones of democracy is the participatory decision making process which is required by those in government (Tshabalala, 2006). Aref et al (2009) asserted that community participation requires the voluntary and democratic involvement of the people in contributing to the development effort; sharing equitably in the benefit derived there from and decision making in respect of setting goals formulating policies and planning and implanting economic and social development programs.

Reid (2000) views community participation in terms of power sharing and organized effort to increase control over resources and regulative institution. In these sense community participations is seen as an active process in which the participant take initiative and actions that are stimulated by their own thinking and deliberation over which they exert effective control.

Raniga et al (2002) remark that community participation might mean that communities are allowed direct and ultimate control in taking decision concerning their affairs. The involvement of the people in electing leaders of their choice into political positions, attending public meetings, and contributing money to community development projects form parts of community participations. Community development is one of the key ingredients of an empowered community (Reid, 2000). Community participations occur when a community organizes itself and takes full responsibility for managing its problems. Theron (2005) pointed out that there are different shades of opinion on either citizen or public participation and it relates to the process of giving people more opportunities to participate effectively in development activities by empowering them to mobilize their own creative potentials manage the resources, make decision and control the activities that affect their lives.

Jope (2005) argues that community participation is about government involving people in identifying local problem and came up with positive solutions. This definition is in line with the context of this research because WDP provides the local people with opportunity to identify the

problem bedeviling their communities with government providing the financial resources for the identified problem to be addressed.

Contextually however community participation refers to the level of involvement of target beneficiaries in the process of identifying the project to be executed and the implementation of the identified projects especially by the community members in Bida Local Government Areas of Niger State.

Importance of community participation

The common believed is that involving community in grassroots development programmers and empowering them have potentials to boost their livelihood and foster development (Kakumba et al, 2008). Community participations empower the primary beneficiary of development programmes or projects by helping them to break away from dependency mentality (Burkey, 2017).

Creighton (2009) also state that community participation promotes self confidence and self awareness. Cooke et al (2011) maintain that participation approaches can generally be viewed as having two broad objectives. First the efficiency argument that participation will yield better project outcomes; and second, the equity or empowerment arguments that participation is a process of promoting the capacity of people to improve their own lives.

Another importance of community participation is sustainability (Kumar, 2012), who further stated that through participation resources available for development projects will be used more efficiency and fewer cost will be incurred if the people themselves are responsible for the projecrs, (Kumar, 2012), Similarly Hodinott et al, 2011) basing their reasoning on their case study in south Africa assert that participation of the beneficiaries is important because use of locally available information, unknown to outsiders, reduce the cost of intervention. Ghai el at (1992) argue that even in sustainable development, participation is a key to the successful implementation of projects because it may result to the sustainable management of local resources by the people.

According to Nanpila (2005), through participation, the community will be able to access their own situation, organize themselves as a powerful group and work creatively towards changing society and building up a new world. Due to a diversity of opinions and perspectives from different role players, community participation helps to obtain a balance perspective of key issues and to identify creative solution to problems like for example, the partnership in planning approach.

Community participation can be seen either an integral components of empowerment or is both a cause and an effect of empowerment. Empowerment is a process which people become strong enough to participate within, share in control of and influence events and institution affecting their lives (Torres, 1986). It helps to achieve greater citizen's satisfaction with their continuity of the development processes.

Review of Empirical Studies

Otinche (2015) examined how ward development projects enhance state – community relations in Niger State (2009 – 2010). The methodology adopted for the study was not specified and the data he used were all obtained from secondary source. In his major finding, the policy has failed to yield the desired result because of inconsistency in financing the program, thus, he recommended that the Niger State government should sustainably fund the program as this will enhance its legitimacy. However his finding was only limited to Lapai Local Government and as such the result could not be generalized.

Shehu (2013) also examined the constraints on sustainability of ward development projects policy in Niger State, Nigeria (2009 – 2010). The paper uses qualitative research methodology and non – statistical tool was employed in his data analysis and presentation. The study discovered that policy instrument succeeded in gradual transformation of the community infrastructure in the state despite the unnecessary interference of the politicians at the local government and ward levels in the process of policy execution and committee constitution. The study also discovered that funding had never been regular which poses a serious threat to the sustainability of the new policy thrust. In his recommendations, funding should be regularized and that people should be given free hands to select their ward development execution committee members, be allowed to define and identify their needs and execute them without the unnecessary interference from the local officials or party men. However, his study concentrated only on Chanchaga Local Government and did not look at ward

development projects from the angle of grassroots development hence his findings could not be generalized to the entire local governments of the state. Thus, this study was embarked upon that covered the areas of Bida Local Government Areas, Niger State; hence the study is of paramount importance to the people of these localities. The research also identified period of coverage as one of the important gaps that this research has filled.

Challenges of participation in grassroots development

Participation is a costly exercise and time consuming process. It may necessitate the commitment of a wide range of organizations staff members over a long period of time (department of water affairs and forestry, 2001). The international institute for sustainable development (2000) notes that participatory approaches usually fail to sustain community participation after the implementation organization has withdrawn. This means that empowerment of the poor to the point where can continue on their own is a big challenge.

Kumar (2012) mentions that community participation may lead to delay and slow progress in initial stages of the field work, thereby delaying the achievement of physical as well as financial targets. However, it should be remembered that obstacle to community participation are directly related to ones perspective of community participation (Oakley and Marsden, 1984). Kok et al (1994) state that community participation can bring latent conflicts to the surface and it can delay projects starts up, while increasing the demands on projects personnel and managers. Illiteracy is an inhibiting factor in community participation; this is because illiterate people may be marginalized by professional and technical communications during the community participation process (Theron, 2005).

Guber et al (2001) argue that participation without a formal later who takes responsibility for getting things done, dealing with conflict and providing a direction for the group often results in disorganization.

Lack of accountability by the community-in the light of encouraging communities to participate in decision making process, Paul (in Houston et al, 2000) states that this could create an "unfair" situation in that the community members cannot be held for the wrong decision that they take .

The weak socio-economic position of the people at grassroots level particularly the rural poor obstruct them from meaningful participation (Kakumba et al, 2008). Gama (2010) support this statement and point out that socio-economic factors such as lack of effective civic education, illiteracy and poverty which culminate in a tendency towards apathy, hamper community participation in development processes.

Musukwa (2011) point out that citizens are reluctant to participate if they are frustrated by the rising cost of living and economic conditions that rob them of their peace of mind and desire to effectively participate. The week financial position of local communities not only reduces the capacity of communities to participate in development projects, but also affect the whole process of grassroots development. Having inadequate resources negatively impacts the communities at the grassroots level to effectively influence and develop policy compared to other players in the policy making process.

Due to unpredictability of human behaviour, problems may develop at any time despite good planning and good intensions. Stakeholders may use community participate as a platform on further their own agendas; they may raise old, unresolved issues that are extended to the current initiatives the outcome of participation process cannot be predetermined because people are unpredictable. The process must be flexible in order to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. It is not always possible to satisfy everyone, which could result to some people not approving of the initiative (Department of Water Affairs and forestry, 2001).

Everatt (2011) indicates that "one of the principles of community participation is to involve the target group in the design and location of project intended to benefit them" Where the community feel that they are not part of the design, they are likely to lose interest and not assume ownership of the project.

The above discussed challenges should not be taken into account whenever development project is to be implemented in particular community. This can contribute to that sustainability of the project member not working in unit pose a serious threat to the success and sustainability of the

project. Being aware of the challenges could help people to find ways to deal with such challenges and on minimize them in future.

Theoretical Framework

The Theoretical framework for this study can best be captured within the realm of Evaluation Theory of Edward Suchman in 1967 was used as a theoretical framework to provide us with the baseline discussion for the theme of the study.

The relevance of Evaluation Theory to this study has been explained below.

Effort: This implies efforts made to establish the program. Niger State Government in February 2008 adopted a policy of (WDP) in order to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in infrastructural deficit. Another element of efforts in the policy was the devising of relevant institutional framework (LGPAMC and WDPC) to work within the confines of operational objectives. The next important attribute of effort was the statement about the mandate of WDP policy. The document outlines the following objectives of the WDP as:

i. Actualization of participatory democracy through people's popular participation in project executions after need assessment.
ii. Enthronement of bottom – up approach to community development.
iii. Actualization of participatory decision making by the people on matters concerning them.
iv. Let them (people) decide what they need by themselves and actively participate in its execution, ownership and sustainability (DWDP, 2009).

Performance: This implies that measuring performance of WDP in infrastructure building in Niger State entails ascertaining the number and the quality of projects executed by the program and the impacts the projects have made with a view to stimulating development at the grassroots level.

Adequacy of performance: This examined the quantity, quality and relevant of the projects executed through WDP. Since participatory development strategy hinges on the needs of the people; people need good education on how to identify and prioritize their needs.

Efficiency: Measuring efficiency of WDP would require an execution of input-output relationship to determine value for money spent and the degree of appropriateness of the projects execution method used as well as distributive equity issues.

Process: This is the most defining element of participatory approach to community development management. The process analysis involves determination of how popular or democratic is the process of constituting WDPC and how democratic is the committee in carrying out her operational functions of project identification, location, execution, and evaluation.

Methodology

To generate quantitative data for this study, the survey research design was employed. Osuala (2017) viewed survey as has been oriented towards the determination of the status of a given phenomenon rather than towards the isolations of causative factors. The justification for adopting the survey design was its ability to allow the researchers investigation problems that has to do with eliciting response from large number of respondents. The Population of this study consists of (318,300) three hundred and eighteen thousand; three hundred people living in the fourteen wards of Bida Local Government Area of Niger State according to 2022 projection by National Population Commission. The researcher adopted the purposive sampling technique in selecting the sample for this study. Odu (2007) defined purposive sampling as technique as the use of judgment and deliberate efforts to obtained representative sample by including typical areas or groups in the sample selected. This technique was adopted due to the nature and character of the variable under study. The researcher administered the questionnaire on respondents at their places of primary assignment (PPA). A sample of three hundred and eighty four (384) respondents was selected from the population of the study and three hundred and fifty one (351) forms the basis of this study. Sample Size is chosen using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was used in arriving at Sample Size. The researcher adopted both the primary and secondary method of data collection. The questionnaire was the main instrument for data collection. It was structured based on the objective of the study; primary sources include interview and observation while the secondary sources include journals, newspapers published and unpublished articles, textbooks and online materials e.t.c. Simple linear regression was used in making the analysis and testing the hypotheses respectively. The analysis was run on the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.

Decision Rule

The null hypothesis should be rejected if the P value is less than 0.05% level of significance and where the P value is greater than 5% level of significance, the null hypothesis should be accepted.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This section tests the hypothesis of the study using simple linear regression through SPSS computer package (Version 20.0) in order to draw inferences and establish relationship and degree of magnitude between the independent or predictor variable (i.e. Infrastructural facilities) and dependent or criterion variable (Grassroots Development).

Table 1.2 As a result of the implementation of ward development project. Feeder roads have been constructed in your ward.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	84	23.9	23.9	23.9
Agree	93	26.4	26.4	50.3
Undecided	28	7.9	7.9	58.2
Disagree	79	22.5	22.5	80.7
Strongly disagree	67	`19.0	19.0	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: SPSS output from field survey, 2023.

From the table 1.2 above, it can be seen that 84 respondent representing 23.9% of the respondents strongly agree that as a result of the implementation of ward development project. feeder roads have been constructed in your ward. 93 respondents representing 26.4% of the respondents agreed with the assertion. 28 respondents representing 7.9% where un-decided, 79 respondents representing 22.5% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion. Very insignificant number of the respondents i.e. 67 representing 19.0% of the entire respondents strongly disagreed with the above assertion.
Therefore, it can be understood that 177 respondents representing 50.4% of the respondents unanimously agreed that, as a result of the implementation of ward development project. feeder roads have been constructed in your ward.

Table 1.3 The implementation of ward development project has led to the provision of primary health care facilities in your ward.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	62	17.6	17.6	17.6
Agree	114	32.4	32.4	50
Undecided	34	9.6	9.6	59.6
Disagree	49	13.9	13.9	73.5
Strongly disagree	92	26.2	26.2	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: SPSS output from field survey, 2023.

From the table 1.3 above, it can be seen that 62 respondent representing 17.6% of the respondents strongly agree that the implementation of ward development project has led to the provision of primary health care facilities in your ward.114 respondents representing 32.4% of the respondents agreed with the assertion. 34 respondents representing 9.6% where un-decided, 49 respondents representing 13.9% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion. Very significant number of the

respondents 92 representing 26.2% of the entire respondents strongly disagreed with the above assertion.

Therefore, it can be understood that 176 respondents representing 50.1% of the respondents unanimously agreed that, the implementation of ward development project has led to the provision of primary health care facilities in your ward.

Table 1.4 Infrastructural facilities of ward Development project led to the adequate provision of portable drinking water in your ward.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	57	16.2	16.2	16.2
Agree	120	34.1	34.1	50.3
Undecided	15	4.2	4.2	54.5
Disagree	106	30.1	30.1	84.6
Strongly disagree	53	15.0	15.0	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: SPSS output from field survey, 2023.

From the table 1.4 above, it can be seen that 57 respondent representing 16.2% of the respondents strongly agree that infrastructural facilities of ward development project led to the adequate provision of portable drinking water in your ward. 120 respondents representing 34.1% of the respondents agreed with the assertion. 15 respondents representing 4.2% where un-decided, 106 respondents representing 30.1% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion. 53 of the respondents representing 15.0% of the entire respondents strongly disagreed with the above assertion.

Therefore, it can be understood that 177 respondents representing 50.4 of the respondents unanimously agree that infrastructural facilities of ward development project led to the adequate provision of portable drinking water in your ward.

Table 1.5 Electrification projects were executed in your ward as a result of ward development projects.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	44	12.5	12.5	12.5
Agree	75	21.3	21.3	33.8
Undecided	24	6.8	6.8	40.6
Disagree	132	37.6	37.6	78.2
Strongly disagree	76	21.6	21.6	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: SPSS output from field survey, 2023.

From the table 1.5 above, it can be seen that 44 respondent representing 12.5% of the respondents strongly agree that electrification projects were executed in your ward as a result of ward development projects. 75 respondents representing 21.3% of the respondents agreed with the assertion. 24 respondents representing 6.8% where un-decided, 132 respondents representing 37.6% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion. Significant number of the respondents 76 representing 21.6% of the entire respondents strongly disagreed with the above assertion.

Therefore, it can be understood that 208 respondents representing 59.2% of the respondents unanimously disagreed that, electrification projects were not executed in your ward as a result of ward development projects.

Table 1.6 Primary education facilities have been provided due to the ward development projects implementation in your community.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Strongly agree	54	15.3	15.3	15.3
Agree	123	35.0	35.0	50.3
Undecided	27	7.6	7.6	57.9

Disagree	101	28.7	28.7	86.6
Strongly disagree	46	13.1	13.1	100
Total	351	100	100	

Source: SPSS output from field survey, 2023.

From the table 1.6 above, it can be seen that 54 respondent representing 15.3% of the respondents strongly agree that primary education facilities have been provided due to the ward development projects implementation in your community. 123 respondents representing 35.3% of the respondents agreed with the assertion. 27 respondents representing 7.6% where un-decided, 101respondents representing 28.7% of the respondents disagreed with the assertion. Very insignificant number of the respondents i.e. 46 representing 13.1% of the entire respondents strongly disagreed with the above assertion.

Therefore, it can be understood that 177 respondents representing 50.4% of the respondents unanimously agreed that, primary education facilities have been provided due to the ward development projects implementation in your community.

Simple Linear Regression Analysis and Test of Hypotheses

To test for the hypothesis formulated in this research, simple linear regression was used to assess the impact of infrastructural facilities of ward development projects on grassroots development in Bida local government area of Niger state. The results from Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) are presented below:

The Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects have no significant impact on grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

Table: Model Summary of Regression Result

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.848a	.719	.705	1.23201

Predictors(constant): Infrastructural facilities

From the findings in the Table above shows that R was 0.848 meaning that there was a positive relationship between infrastructural facilities of ward development project and grass root development. R^2 was 0.719 implying that only 71.9% of the dependent variable variations could be explained by independent variables while only 28.1% of the variations were due to other factors. This implies that the regression model has very good explanatory and predictor as only 28.1% of the variations could not be explained.

Table: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	630.777	1	630.777	609.446	.000[a]
	Residual	361.221	349	1.0350		
	Total	980.001	350			

Predictors: (Constant), Infrastructural facilities

Dependent Variable: Grass root development

The table 1.9 above shows the F statistics which stood at 609.446 having a P-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 (0.000<0.05) indicating significance at 95% confidence level. Therefore, the overall regression model is statistically significant and can be used for prediction purposes at 5 % significance level.

Table 1.9: Regression Standard Coefficient Results
Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig
(Constant)	2.167	.132	.848	29.519	.000
Infrastructural facilities	.636	.039		22.921	.000

Dependent variable: Grassroots development

$Y = 2.167 + 0.636x + \varepsilon$

The t and Sig (p) values give the indication of the impact of the predictor variable a big absolute t-value and small P-value suggests that a predictor variable is having a large impact on the criterion variable.

Table shows the coefficient of the variables in the model. From the above model, the coefficient of Infrastructural facilities stood at 0.636 which is positive. This implies that effective Infrastructural facilities lead to grass root development. Conclusively from tables above, a Simple Linear Regression was computed for the impact of infrastructural facilities of ward development projects. A significant positive impact was found in which F=623.174, P=.000 indicating that, infrastructural facilities of ward development projects has a significant impact on grass root development. Furthermore, the beta value (0.848) means that infrastructural facilities of ward development projects has significant impact on grass root development in such a way that infrastructural facilities of ward development projects account for 0.636 which will lead to 84.8% effective grass root development. Therefore, we fail to accept the H_0which state that, "There is no significant relationship between the Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects and grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State". This gives the impetus to conclude that Infrastructural facilities of ward development projects have significantly impact on grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State.

Discussion of Findings

The test of hypothesis shows that infrastructural facilities of ward development project has a positive significant impact on grassroots development in Bida area of Niger State. However, the results of the analysis indicated a positive significant relationship between the infrastructural facilities and grassroots development in Bida Local Government Area. The findings from questionnaire results as shown that the respondent indicate that infrastructural facilities of ward development project has impacted on grassroots development in Bida, to them, there is now feeder roads, primary health care, portable drinking water and provision of primary education facilities to the community.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In view of the data presented and analyzed as well as the hypothesis tested, the study concludes that: The infrastructural facilities of ward development project has a positive significant impact to Bida Local Government in such a way that many dilapidated roads are fixed. The community now enjoys feeder roads, primary health care, portable drinking water and provision of primary education facilities to the community. Despite the successes recorded in the programme, Government has not properly provided a means to checkmate the activities of awarded projects for accountability. Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the study recommended that: The Government should continue with that policy so that infrastructural development can reach out more in the study area. It was also recommended that Government should be up and doing to checkmate the activities of awarded projects for accountability.

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