

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN
NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN
NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

by

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**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my original work except for the quotations and citations, which have been fully acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously and is not concurrently submitted for another degree at the Universiti Sains Malaysia or any other institution.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God and to my beloved late sisters Veronica P. Kokona, Naira P Kokona Naomi P Kokona and my late friend Clement Barki may their souls rest in peace.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
CDC	Community Development Associations
FTO	Foreign Terrorist Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTI	Global Terrorism Index
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
JAS	Joint Account System
LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Administration
LGC	Local Government Council
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NADP	Nasarawa Agricultural Development Program
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
P1	Participant 1
PHC	Primary Health care Centres
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Program
RQ	Research Question
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIEC	State Independent Electoral Commission
UN	United Nations

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**PENTADBIRAN KERAJAAN TEMPATAN DAN TRANSFORMASI LUAR
BANDAR DI NEGERI NASARAWA, NIGERIA**

ABSTRAK

Terdapat hubungan yang wujud antara kerajaan di peringkat luar bandar atau akar umbi dan transformasi atau pembangunan luar bandar yang menjadi penyebab utama mengapa Pentadbiran Kerajaan Tempatan ditubuhkan di seluruh dunia. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan mengkaji peranan Pentadbiran Kerajaan Tempatan dalam Pembangunan Luar Bandar di Negeri Nasarawa, Nigeria, dengan tumpuan khusus kepada tiga pembolehubah utama pembangunan luar bandar iaitu: Pertanian, Kesihatan dan Pendidikan. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah (i) untuk mengkaji sejauh mana Pentadbiran Kerajaan Tempatan di negeri Nasarawa telah menyumbang kepada Pembangunan Luar Bandar dari segi Pertanian, Kesihatan dan Pendidikan, (ii) untuk mengenalpasti faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan berlakunya kemunduran pembangunan luar bandar di negeri Nasarawa dari segi Pertanian, Kesihatan dan Pendidikan, (iii) untuk mencadangkan jalan ke hadapan bagaimana kawasan luar bandar negeri Nasarawa boleh dibangunkan dengan lebih baik. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah kajian kualitatif, di mana temu bual mendalam telah dijalankan. Data telah dikodkan dan dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik dengan bantuan perisian Nvivo 12. Dapatan kajian mendedahkan bahawa pentadbiran kerajaan tempatan di negeri Nasarawa telah gagal melaksanakan mandat mereka untuk membangunkan kawasan luar bandar seperti yang diharapkan daripada mereka, terutamanya dalam bidang Pertanian, Kesihatan dan Pendidikan. Oleh itu, kajian mencadangkan agar pihak Pentadbiran Kerajaan Tempatan di negeri ini

melakukan yang terbaik dengan memastikan penyampaian perkhidmatan yang baik di kawasan luar bandar dari segi Pertanian, Kesihatan dan Pendidikan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

There is an interface that exists between government at the rural or grass root level and rural transformation or development which is the main reason why Local Government Administrations were established all over the world. This research work seeks to examine the role of Local Government Administrations in Rural Development in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, with a particular focus on three key variables of rural development which are: Agriculture, Health and Education. The main objectives of this study are (i) to examine the extent to which Local Government Administrations in Nasarawa state have contributed to Rural Development in terms of Agriculture, Health and Education, (ii) to investigate the factors responsible for the underdevelopment of the rural areas in Nasarawa state in terms of Agriculture, Health and Education, (iii) to suggest the ways forward on how the rural areas of Nasarawa state can be better developed. The study employed the qualitative research method, where an in- depth interview was conducted. The data were coded and analyzed using the thematic analysis with the help of Nvivo 12 software. The findings in the study reveal that local government administrations in Nasarawa state have failed to deliver on their mandate of developing the rural areas as expected of them, most especially in the areas of Agriculture, Health and Education. The study therefore recommends that the Local Government Administrations in the state should do their best by ensuring good service delivery in the rural areas in terms of Agriculture, Health, and Education.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter gives the reader an overview of the study. It briefly explains local government and rural transformation or developments which are synonymous in conception and approach. They are both aimed at achieving the same objectives. Chih-Pei, Yao-Hsu, Yan-Yi, and Chen-Kuo, (2021) postulated that local government administrations are responsible for the provision of a wide range of public services to its citizens so as to improve their standard of living. Local governments have the responsibility of carrying out the task of providing very high quality of vital services to the rural areas in their jurisdiction, for this purpose to be achieved an effective local government system is required (Sutopo, Wulandari & Adiati, 2017). This shows how important local government administration is to national development. The responsibilities for which local government administrations or Public administration are expected to execute nowadays has changed in several countries, it has moved beyond the maintenance of law and order to that of the provision of key and essential services to the rural people so as to improve the quality of their lives within that locality (Vitálišová, Murray-Svidroňová & Jakuš-Muthová, 2021). Tangi, Benedetti, Gastaldi, Noci, and Russo (2021) asserted that numerous governments are vigorously encouraging their local government administrations to deliver public services in their localities through efficient and effective ways so as to improve the living condition of the people.

Local government administrations represent some type of decentralized system of administration where powers are devolved to the local level of government by the central government and the people in the locality depend on them for the delivering of essential services rather than the central government (Tbaishat, 2021). Local government refers to the level of government that is close to the people and mandated with some powers to exercise control on the affairs or activities of the people in that area and is expected to carry out the responsibility of promoting democratic ideals of the localities and coordinating transformation programs as while as serving as the basis of economic development of the rural areas (Imhanlahimi, 2011). It is the mandate of any local government council worldwide to carefully make decisions which are accurate in order to influence change or development in the areas within its jurisdiction to improve the living condition of the people (David & Roenigk 2021). Local government administrations generally are mandated to develop the localities under them and to reduce inequalities among the rural dwellers most especially in health care delivery and other aspect of development (van der Graaf et al., 2021).

Makinde and Olaiya, (2016) observed that local governments are created with the assumption that the people of the local area have complete awareness of their own needs better than someone coming from outside the locality. He posited further that every local area has its own peculiar needs which are economic, social, and physical, as well as having unique traditional history which are understood and appreciated better by its people, and that the local governments are created to bring about democracy, to serve as a base for political education and political participation and to serve as vehicle for the transformation of the rural areas. Atadoga (2014) refers to local government as the third-tier level of government established for

efficient and effective administration of the rural areas, and he posited further that most of the resources of the country are presently located in the rural sector and mainly in agriculture. The harnessing of these resources for national development and the transformation of the rural areas constitutes the long - term objectives of our development plans. Local government administrations have the mandate to provide public services such as health, education, transportation, agriculture, water, infrastructures among others (Mullin, 2021). Hughes, Orr, and Yusoff (2021) posited that the task of local strategizing is a worthwhile job undertaking by local government councils to develop its localities.

Local government as a unit of government in Nigeria emerged during the Colonial Administration in the 19th century. It started with the Northern part of the country in 1900 under the Indirect Rule system known as the Native Authority. Ojo (2006) argued that indirect rule means a system of government in which the British Government administered the West African Countries by utilizing the traditional chiefs. The system relied on the indigenous traditional institutions of the Obas, Emirs, and chiefs as the bedrock of local government in Nigeria.

Nwankwo (2000) said that rural transformation or development objectives in Nigeria were conceived and implemented mainly within the framework of various agricultural development programs such as the farm settlement scheme of the erstwhile regional governments until the local government reforms of the 1970's. At that time there were administrative units which were very limited in number and as such most of them were very limited and attracted very little to their locations. Hence, it is not out of place, therefore, to say that there had been comprehensive or integrated rural development or transformation strategy in Nigeria, which had the

rural dwellers and the rural landscape as the focus of policy. The priority for rural development seems to emanate not out of the concern for rural Nigeria where 70 percent of Nigerians live, but for contributions of rural areas to food supply for urban consumption, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange earnings. Indeed, rural transformation has continuously been subsumed under agriculture. However, whether subsumed under agriculture or executed under the directorate system, rural transformation programs in Nigeria seems to be informed by the modernization paradigm that has now become a familiar conception of development where by the enlightened arrogate to themselves the role of torch bearers engaged in a civilizing mission (Nwankwo, 2000). Chambers (2014) agrees with this when he said the past years has been a period that certain efforts towards changes and progress in the third world countries has taken place, but still many individuals have continued to be trapped in poverty, a life condition that is characterized by malnutrition, disease, high infant mortality, illiteracy and low life expectancy beyond any human imagination. This chapter was divided into several parts. It started with the background of the study.

1.2 Background of the Study

There are several factors that are responsible for the inability of the rural areas in Nigeria to develop. First, the 1999 Nigerian constitution is one of the factors that have hindered rural transformation. This is because section 7(1) of the constitution stipulates that there shall be a local government system, and its powers, functions and existence shall be determined by their respective states governments. This section of the constitution has further weakened the local government by putting them at the mercy of the state governors who manipulates them for their selfish

reasons as against the interest of the rural people. Taken a critical analysis of the 1999 constitutional provision for Local Government Authorities revealed that the local councils are not autonomous. It shows that the local councils do not enjoy same status with the federal and state governments. It is rather subordinated to the Federal and State Governments and this constitutes a serious problem on its ability to carry out its expected responsibilities of developing its areas (Makinde & Olaiya, 2016).

Second, another issue that has militated against local governments efforts towards rural transformation is the Joint Account System (JAS) which are operated by the states and local governments areas. In this case the Federal allocations are expected to get to the local governments through their various state governments. However, recent practice shows that the Governors of these states usually initiate projects that are to be executed on the local government areas without necessarily consulting the officials of the councils or the rural people for whom the projects are meant. This situation has not only affected the performance of local governments towards rural transformation, but it also undermined the arrangement of the Federal system of government in Nigeria. (Uhunmwangho & Epelle, 2007). However, for local government to effectively perform their responsibilities of developing the rural areas, they must be allowed the freedom to take decisions and mobilize resources to implement and manage transformation activities in their jurisdiction without interference from any tier of government, but unfortunately, this is lacking in Nigeria.(Anyebe, 2017).

Third, one other major challenge of rural development in Nigeria is the issue of Boko Haram insurgency. The actual name of Boko Haram in the past was Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, which means the congregation of the

people of tradition for proselytism and jihad(Shuaibu, Salleh & Shehu, 2015). The word Boko Haram refers to Western Education is forbidden. The group came into existence in the early 2000 as a little Sunni Islamic organization or group that was advocating a strict interpretation and execution of Islamic laws in Nigeria. At the beginning the leadership of the sect was not calling for violence. The followers or members usually engaged in little clashes with security agents from time to time during their formative years (Shuaibu, Salleh & Shehu, 2015). Boko Haram activities changed from local peace militia into a violent group when the government of Nigeria challenged and attacked the sect members in some Northern part of the country. This resulted to a five days violent clashes between the sects members and the Nigerian security forces and the leader of the sect by name Muhammed Yusuf was eventually killed in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state alongside with more than 700 other people(Ezepue, 2017).

After the clash in 2009 the group activities were slow, but they later re-emerged in 2010 and came up with a new tactics that involved suicide bombing, attacking of Islamic clerics, mosques, churches, markets and kidnapping in the country. The first suicide bombing led by the group in Nigeria was the bombing of the Police Headquarters and the United Nation's office all located in Abuja the capital of Nigeria (Shuaibu, Salleh & Shehu, 2015). The group attack escalated on the 14th April 2014 when the sect kidnapped about 250 female students from Government Secondary School Chibok in Borno state. The United Nation State Security Department in November 2013 designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (F.T.O) and subsequently on 22nd May 2014, the United Nation Committee on Al Qaeda blacklisted and sanctioned the group as one of the

world terrorist group or organizations, and the United Nation listing entry described the sect as an affiliate of Al Qaeda (Ezepue, 2017).

The threats posed by Boko Haram has not only undermined the existence of Nigeria as a political territory, but it has also undermined the development of the rural areas of the country (Sulaiman, 2018). The phenomenon of terrorism is presently becoming a global concern where almost all the countries of the world today are not exonerated completely from its impact. War, terrorism and some other kinds of transnational political violence are today more dangerous and threatening than it has been in the years back, as destruction of valuable properties and killing of human beings has been on the rise and it has greatly undermined developmental activities in so many areas (Sulaiman, 2018). The negative impact of Boko Haram in Nigeria has reverberated throughout the country and has become a fundamental source of underdevelopment in the country most especially the rural areas as it has affected their ability to even go out and work so as to earn their daily means of livelihood (Awortu, 2015). The effects of the present insecurity in Nigeria caused by Boko Haram where the security agencies can no longer secure lives and properties has reduced the ability of the people to economically develop and likewise the country effort to attract foreign investors are limited because of the palpable insecurity. Foreign investors are not willing to invest in an unsafe environment, they will rather relocate their businesses to places where they are sure that their investment will be secured (Ali, Musa, & Fada, 2016).

It will be right to say that security precedes economic development be it at the rural areas or cities. Terrorism gives rise to insecurity, which in turn, affects production and consumption patterns, that makes the market less attractive both

locally and internationally. Tighter security makes trade difficult, cumbersome, and equally more expensive because of delays in transaction processing and deliveries of the goods and services. Terrorism also destroys, or damages traded goods and infrastructures such as roads, bridges, electricity among others which are required for trade and development (Enders, & Sandler, 2006). The activities of Boko Haram have negatively impacted on the Nigerian trade flows and volumes most especially at the rural areas. It has destroyed the traded goods and infrastructures needed for the trade. Many farm lands and agricultural products has been damaged by the Boko Haram and this has affected the economy of the rural people who are mostly farmers. It has also destroyed the commercial sector of Nigeria most especially the northern part of the country. Small and medium scale businesses, road side stores, and shops, local markets of the northern Nigeria have been shut down completely, and all these negatively affect the trade flow and volume in the country, and consequently affecting the rural economy and development in Nigeria (Amao, 2017).

The negative impact of Boko Haram activities on farmers can be seen in the grain market in Gamboru and Tashan Baga in Borno state from 2009 to 2015, which will be used to give an example of how the menace of the insurgents impedes the trade flow and volume in Nigeria. Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) captured the trend of grain transaction or business before and during Boko Haram days. The Baga and Gamboru grain markets in Borno state usually collects huge grains which include millet, maize, sorghum and beans seeds from all the Northern States and even some other part of Nigeria. The volume and flow of grains was negatively affected by the Boko Haram activities in Nigeria. The grain volume and flow as illustrated by Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) is presented in the below tables.

Table 1.1: Grains flow At Gambaru Market to Neighboring Countries; from 2008 to 2014 in Metric Tons

Items	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maize	33,000	35,000	31,000	28,000	24,000	20,500	15,000
Millet	5,400	7,000	8,000	6,500	5,000	3,000	3,500
Beans	88,600	82,400	80,000	71,000	65,000	42,000	21,000
Sorghum	27,100	30,000	25,000	18,000	20,000	15,000	6,000
Total	154,700	154,900	144,400	123,500	114,000	80,500	45,500

Source: Mohammed and Ahmed (2015).

The table above shows that in 2008 an estimated 154,700 tons of grains which included maize, beans, millets and sorghum flew in and out of the market to other sub markets in the hinter land. The quantity increased slightly to 154, 900 in 2009. But there was a dramatic decline when the Boko Haram insurgence activities started between 2010 to 2014; this was usually because a huge quantity of these grains usually came through insurgence ridden communities.

Table 1.2: Grains flow At Baga Market to Neighboring Countries; from 2008 to 2014 in Metric Tons

Items	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maize	38,400	38,600	30,200	24,500	16,700	15,900	13,000
Millet	18,900	22,000	16,500	14,000	12,600	7,000	3,700
Beans	58,300	52,900	43,000	45,000	33,000	30,000	16,000
Sorghum	25,200	21,000	19,000	22,000	16,000	14,000	14,200
Total	140,800	134,500	108,700	105,500	78,300	66,900	46,900

Source: Mohammed and Ahmed (2015).

The Baga grain market that is also known for business transactions in different grains products was seriously affected by the activities of Boko Haram insurgency. The market is a gate way to some other parts of Nigeria for grain products like millet, maize, beans, and sorghum. The grain flow in and out of Baga market as illustrated by Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) is presented in table 2 above. The table shows that in 2008 grain flow in and out of Baga grain market was 140,800 tons. It went down to 134,500 tons in 2009. But a serious decline was witnessed between 2010 and 2014 and that was when the activities of the insurgency started.

The two tables above indicated that grain flow was significantly affected by the Boko Haram activities or attacks and consequently it has affected the economy of the rural people who are mostly farmers and by extension it has affected the development of the rural communities.

Another serious problem that has hindered the development of the rural areas in Nigeria is the issue of Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers conflicts. Herdsmen are those that own and keep herds of animals such as cattle. Their herds are usually moved from one place to another in search of fresh water and pasture. It is predominantly the Fulani ethnic tribe in Nigeria that are into such occupation (Perpetua, Chimaobi, & Uche, 2018). The Fulani are people of obscure origin who came from Futa Toro in lower Senegal in the 4th century. Around 19th century they established themselves in Nigeria, particularly in the Northern part of the country (Idowu, 2017). Most of the Fulani kept to their pastoral occupation, while some, most especially in the Hausa land gave up their nomadic occupation, settled in urban centres or cities, were converted to Islam, and thereby making it difficult to differentiate them from the original Hausa- Muslims of Nigeria. They are the main

suppliers of milk, beef (meat), and they are equally about 90% of those that owns cattle in Nigeria today (Idowu, 2017).

The need for protection and safeguarding the economic means of livelihood seems to be the cause of constant clashes or conflicts between the farmers and the herdsmen in different parts of Nigeria today. Such conflicts between the herdsmen and farmers has become a common characteristics of farms and economic activities over the years (Okoli & Atelhe, 2014). Most parts of Nigeria has of recent been experiencing increased clashes between the farmers and herdsmen over access to land resources (Ojo, 2018). The fight for the use of agricultural land for grazing of cattle and the planting of crops is becoming fiercer and continues to expand in Nigeria, and basically as a result of intensification of production activities which is necessary due to increased population in the country where about 70% of the population are farmer (Perpetua, Chimaobi, & Uche, 2018). In several places the herdsmen clashed with the farmers and communities that host them as a result of cattle destruction of farm produce, or farmers encroachment on the grazing reserve areas and the indiscriminate burning of bushes by the herdsmen which usually result to loss of crops (Adeoye, 2017). The seeming boldness the culprits and the secret surrounding the actual cause of the conflicts has increasingly attracted mixed perceptions while some sees it as ordinary farming, grazing land and water dispute, or clashes, others perceive it as reprisals in defence of their cattle or livestock's from banditry in farming communities (Anih, 2018).

However, a conflict between farmers and herdsmen in North- Central Nigeria where Nasarawa state is situated is becoming endless. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) recently in 2017, placed the Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria as the world fourth

deadliest militant group for being responsible for 1,229 deaths in 2014. While the Boko Haram was responsible for about 330 deaths in the first quarter of 2016, the Fulani herdsmen accounted for about 500 casualties (deaths), and have not shown any sign of slowing down in the near future. As a result of this, it has been predicted that the Fulani herdsmen might surpass Boko Haram as Nigerian most dangerous terror group. This repeated attacks or clashes between the farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria has made most farmers to abandon their farming occupation for the fear of either been killed by the Fulani in the farms, or their crops destroyed by the herdsmen cattle before such crops are due for harvest (Ojo, 2018). The conflict between the farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria today is one of the serious causes of rural underdevelopment in the country and the earlier measures are taken to address the problem, the better for the rural economy and the country at large (Ojo, 2018).

Table 1.3: Grains production in Nasarawa state of Nigeria from 2013 to 2018 in Metric Tons

Items	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Maize	432.15	489.00	510.10	497.20	407.14	322.35
Rice	170.84	188.20	201.30	198.24	192.16	172.40
Sorghum	161.80	173.10	199.00	156.03	141.12	125.95
Groundnut	239.23	244.10	290.10	263.70	238.98	211.70
Yam	4283.98	4370.60	4425.18	4360.19	4235.95	4169.03
Cassava	2514.60	2574.90	2631.00	2575.60	2352.67	2258.00
Total	7802.6	8039.9	8256.68	8052.95	7568.01	7259.43

Source:(NADP) (Nasarawa Agricultural Development Program, 2018)

The above table indicates that in 2013 an estimated 7802.6 metric tons of grains which comprised of maize, rice, sorghum, groundnut, yam and cassava was produced in Nasarawa state of Nigeria, and the quantity of the products increased to 8039.9 and 8256.95 in 2014 and 2015 respectively. However, between 2016 to 2018 there was a decline in the production of this products, which was basically as a result of the increase in the conflict between the herdsmen and farmers in the state where some farmers are scared of going to the farms to cultivate crops for fear of been killed or their crops been destroyed by the cattle, and this has affected the economy of the rural people who are predominantly farmers and consequently rural development or transformation is affected. Uche and Iwuamadi (2018) supported this view where they said the constant clashes between farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria has resulted in a situation where the farmers are no longer interested in going to cultivate their farms because of the fear of been killed by the Fulani herdsmen and this has brought about poverty, hunger and underdevelopment of the rural communities and even the country at large.

The conflict between farmers, and herdsmen in Nigeria where the security agencies seem to be unable to end has led to the loss of several valuable lives and these are people who could have been alive to contribute immensely to the development of their rural areas and the country at large (Anih, 2018). The menace of herdsmen in Nigeria appears to have serious implication for socio economic development of the nation especially the rural areas. Apart from the loss of lives and the destruction of crops, the socio-economic life of the people in those states are usually grounded to a halt since the people can no longer go to their farms freely and carry out their farming activities for the fact that they could be killed by the herdsmen who are always armed with sophisticated weapons. And also a huge

amount of the country budget which is spent in taking care of the security forces and to compensate the farmers or herders could have been used to provide infrastructures in the country especially the rural areas that are in dire need of this development (Chukwuemeka, 2018).

Ajibefun (2018) agrees with the above submission when he said the Nigerian government often budgeted and spent a substantial amount of money in the acquisition of weapons and ammunitions in order to equip the security forces to ensure peace between the farmers and herdsmen and this money could have been used to transform the rural communities and the country generally. The herdsmen in Nigeria most especially the North- Central region of the country have now almost wiped the farmers from their farms and if the menace is not properly checked, it has the potential or ability of precipitating national serious food shortage, and turning Nigeria into a country that will have to rely on the importation of food to survive (Ahmadu & Ayuba, 2018).

In the process of this research it is important to look at countries in terms of local government and rural transformation so as to make comparison and to find solutions on how rural transformation policies or programs can be more successful. Hence, for this Nigeria and South Africa will be compared. The researcher chooses South Africa because they both have some similarities in terms of history with Nigeria, but South Africa was able to take certain political decisions in terms of rural development and implement them which has turned around the fortunes of her rural areas more than that of Nigeria. In the previous years of the Apartheid White Government in South Africa, there were three fundamental foundations that buttressed the Apartheid regime. One of such is the Race Classification Act. With

this, the population of South Africa was divided according to colour which was the White and the so – called Nonwhites. The second was the Mixed Marriage Act. This forbade marriage between the Whites and the Blacks in the country. The third was the Group Area Act. This stipulated areas where the Whites could live and the areas where the Blacks could live (Alhadeff, 2018).

The Nonwhites in South Africa had no franchise. They Could not vote and be voted for in any election in the country. The Nonwhites could not enter same vehicles with the White. They could not swim together in the swimming pool. When the Blacks were sick or injured they could not be admitted in the same hospitals with the White. The Blacks had separate schools., The were constantly stopped on the roads, and asked to produce a pass or an identity card as it was referred to and when they could not produce such, they were arrested by the police and thrown into prison. The law equally ensured that the education that the Blacks received was inferior in such a way that it will limit their educational potentials (Alhadeff, 2018). Freedom was completely taken away from the blacks, they could not do anything of their own, and in terms of journalism, it was ensured that no news was reported to the public on any maltreatment on the blacks and any newspaper or media that dared report such had broken the law of the land and such reporters were arrested and thrown into prison, and all the newspapers or media houses had a government representative who worked as a spy and reported any scandal about the bad condition of the blacks (Alhadeff, 2018).

The local government systems were not managed with the aim of transforming the rural areas. The foundation for local government systems were laid in the aftermath of the Anglo- South African Boer war and the establishment of the

Union of South Africa by 1910. The Union act established a unitary state with government structure which was the central province and the local units. The migrant system of labour which was initiated to ensure a steady stream of cheap labor to the mines was introduced into a broader system of political, economic, and social control that later changed to the system of Apartheid. The economy continued to develop, and the urban centres were equally developing, hence the government started to look for ways in which the black people could provide the needed labour in white cities and towns, but at the same time they were prevented from living there. Several laws were passed to that effect to curb the movement of the black people, such as the Native Trust and Land Act of 1936 and the Native Laws Amendment Act of 1937. (Koma, 2012).

The granting of independence to South Africa in 1990 and the general elections that followed in 1994 symbolized the coming or restoration of freedom and hope to the blacks in the country. They now have the freedom to decide on issues that will bring about the development of their people who were mostly residing in the rural areas and neglected by the apartheid regime.(Siphiwe Ndlovu, 2017). Nelson Mandela became the father of the new country leading the freedom of the black people and it symbolized the victory of good over evil in South Africa. With the coming of freedom, Nelson Mandela spear headed an era that was to bring back the desired development that the blacks were longing for (Mazibuko, 2017).

The long neglect of the rural areas during the Apartheid government resulted in major crisis and led to the national reform process which started in 1990 when the country got her independence. Several debates concerning the future of local government took place, and this gave birth to the local government transition of

1993. The process of South African policy on rural development and reform took place between 1993 and 2000. The African National Congress (ANC) led government which came into being in 1994, introduced the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) where the government argued that its successful implementation was depended upon the ability of local government to deliver essential, or basic services to their localities. (Koma, 2012). A white paper was presented by the government to strengthen the local government system in South Africa which was enshrined into their 1996 constitution with the following features:

(a) Maximization of social and economic growth

This is concerned with the provision of essential services such as electricity, health, water, roads, among others to improve the living standard of the local people. The local government were given more autonomy and were to mobilize all available resources and directing them towards achieving the objectives. It is about equity, wealth distribution, economic empowerment which will bring economic transformation in the rural areas. The local government are responsible for ensuring social and economic conditions that will give rise to employment opportunities (Koma, 2015).

(b) Integrating and coordinating development

The integrating means the local governments are to provide leadership and to involve the various sectors with the role to play in achieving the local transformation goals. Coordinating is concern with bringing the activities of the different sectors and gearing them towards the achievement of the various developmental activities. The

significance of Integrating and Coordinating in Local government is pointed out in section 41 (1) (h) of the 1996 South African constitution.

(c) Leading and learning

The local governments here are to take a leading role in their areas and learn from the successes and failures of other Local governments in the world. They must be visionary and strategic by their mode of operations, and as policy makers and planners they have a critical role to play in providing the basic needs of their localities. These measures taken by the South African Government lately has worked significantly in putting the South African local governments in the right part and it has yielded significant results in the performance of Local Governments towards rural transformation in South Africa. According to (Wendy, 2015) the reforms embarked upon by the South African government between 1990 to 2000 such as the leading and learning among others which was meant to target the poor, has yielded significant result because good number of rural areas in South Africa now have access to good water, electricity, sanitation, roads, refuse removal, and an increase in the rural children school enrolment, compared to other African countries. Although a lots more need to be done.

Looking at Nigeria and South Africa, one can say that there are similarities between them, they have similar history of colonialism as they were both colonized by Britain, during which their rural areas were largely not attended to by the colonial masters, and the two countries all made efforts after independence to transform their rural areas. Despite these similarities, the difference between the two countries is clear. It is important to note that the South African little success over Nigeria is a response to good rural development policies, which were formulated and consciously

enshrined into their constitution with detailed processes, with a good political will in their implementation. Unlike Nigeria where the current 1999 constitution of the country only mentions in section 7 (1) that there shall be Local Government system but its creation, functions and elections, shall be determined by their state governments. This has endangered the Nigerian local governments because it has put them at the mercy of their state governors who have manipulated them for their selfish interest, and it has hindered their performances. The Nigerian people on their part are very docile and that has made them not to stand up on their feet to protest and demand that the section 7 (1) of the Nigerian 1999 constitution be amended so as to empower the local governments to perform better especially in the area of rural transformation for the good of the people.

The comparison between Nigeria and South Africa in terms of rural transformation therefore is obvious. After securing their freedom the South African local governments and policy makers were greatly involved in the initiation, implementation, and the maintenance of projects that affect the lives of their Local communities, unlike Nigeria where such project are imposed on the people by government officials and in most cases the implementations are poorly done , hence the country has a lot to do in order to catch up with South Africa and other countries of the world that are doing better in terms of rural transformation for the good of the people who reside in the rural areas and the general development of the country. This position is supported by Nel and Binns (2003) where they asserted that because of the phenomenon of globalization, local governments were becoming key to economic transformation. They are taking the function of focal points of economic growth, hence their leadership should be dynamic, learn from the best international practices in issues relating to local government to enable them to perform better.

1.2.1 Background of the study area

Nasarawa state is in Nigeria and was established on 1st October, 1996 and is currently among the thirty six (36) states that make up the federating states of the country. The state is situated in the North Central geo- political zone and it is surrounded by Benue state in the South, Plateau and Kaduna states to the North, Taraba state to the East, and Kogi state and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja to the west. Nasarawa state has a total number of thirteen (13) Local Government Councils or Administrations namely, Akwanga, Awe, Doma, Karu, Keana, Keffi, Kokona, Lafia, Nasarawa, Nasarawa Eggon, Obi and Toto Local Government Administrations.



Figure 1.1: Map of Nigeria showing the 36 states of the federation

The above figure shows the 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and Nasarawa state is the portion marked in green colour.

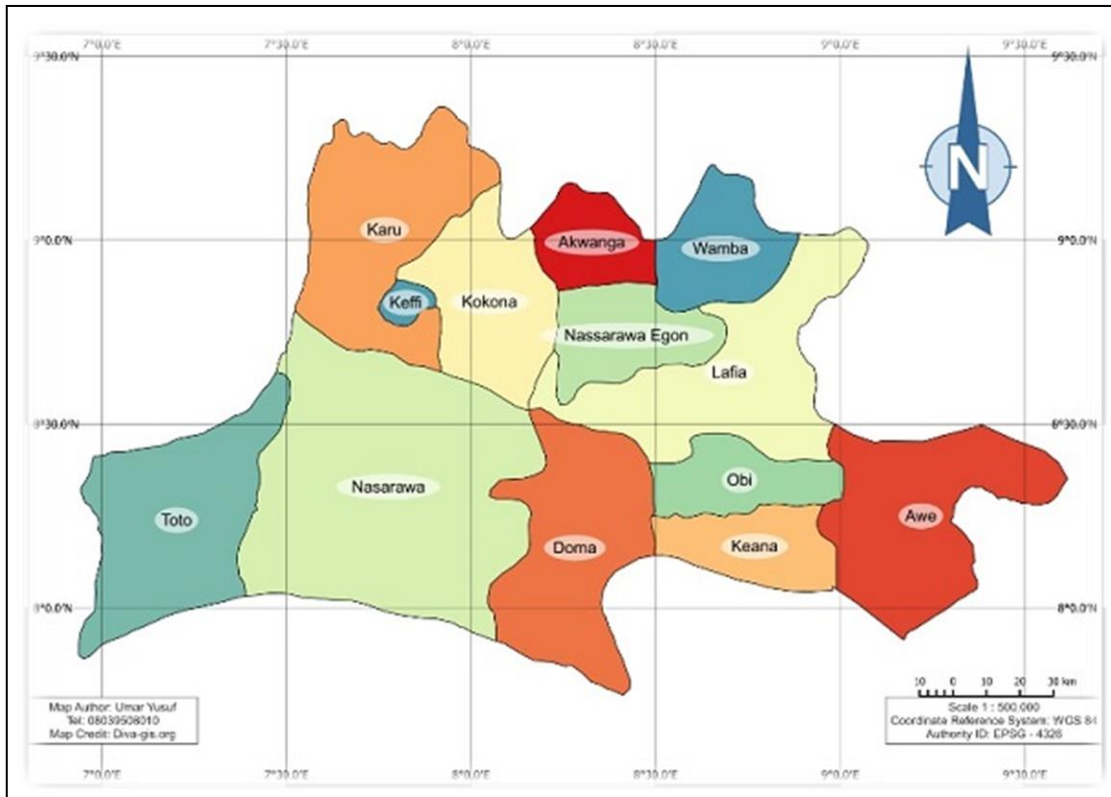


Figure 1.2: Map of Nasarawa state showing the 13 local government administrations

1.3 Developmental Potentials of Nasarawa state

Nasarawa state of Nigeria is among the states that are richly blessed with natural resources deposits in the country. The state is ranked as the third state that has the highest solid minerals deposits among the 36 States of the Federation (Ojo, Ayesoro & Agara, 2018). There are several mineral resources deposited in all the 13 Local Government Areas of Nasarawa state (Yaro & Ebuga, 2013). The state is also agrarian in nature with about 80% of the population engaging in agricultural activities.

Table 1.4: Distribution of solid minerals in Nasarawa state

S/ N	Local Government Area	Minerals
1	Akwanga	Cassiterite, Clay, Columbite, Mica, Grannite, Limenite
2	Awe	Baryte, Clay, Galena, Salt, Limestone
3	Doma	Clay, Silica sand
4	Keana	Baryte, Galena, Salt, Zinc, Lead, Limestone.
5	Karu	Clay, Glass sand, Granite, Tantalite, Mica
6	Keffi	Clay, Tale, Gemstone (Tourmaline, Aquamarine, Sapphire)
7	Kokona	Mica, Chalcopyrite, Gemstone (Tourmaline and Aquamarine)
8	Lafia	Clay, Silica sand, Gemstone (Topaz)
9	Nasarawa Eggon	Quartz, Mica, Granite, Gemstone (Emerald, Aquamarine, Heliodor, Topaz, Amethyst)
10	Obi	Baryte, Clay Coal
11	Nasarawa	Cassiterite, Clay, Columbite, Tantalite
12	Toto	Marble, Iron ore, Mica
13	Wamba	Cassiterite, Tantalite, Granite, Columbite, limonite, Aquamarine

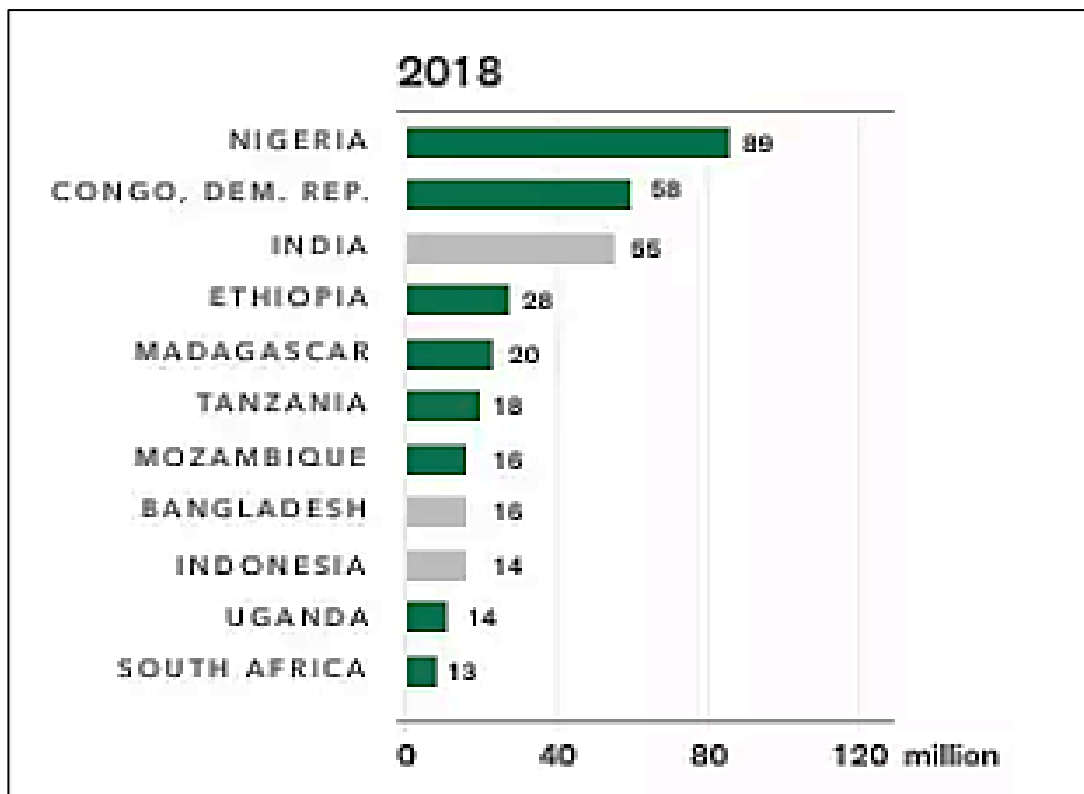
Source: (Yaro & Ebuga, 2013).

1.4 Statement of Problem

There is an interface that exist between government at the grass root level which is local government and rural development, which is the major reason why several countries across the world had taken steps to establish local government because it is believed that they are the government that are closer to the people at the grass root and hence they will tend to be in a better position to meet the needs and aspirations of the people at the rural areas. However, over the years this dream of transforming the lives of the people at the rural areas to improve their standard of living is yet to be realised by the local government administrations in Nigeria and

Nasarawa state in particular. Thereby making the people at the rural areas to be confronted with the challenges of unemployment, illiteracy, poor medical services, poor education which can all be summed up to the fact that the rural dwellers are living a life that is characterised by poverty and underdevelopment.

Poverty is a global threat which has threatened the living condition of the people all over the world. It is a pervasive phenomenon that is on the rise in Nigeria despite the rich resources that the country (Nigeria) has (Omonona, 2009). Notwithstanding the several efforts of the government to eliminate or reduce the menace of poverty incidence by introducing several poverty alleviation strategies and the desire of the country to be among the 20 largest economy in the world in the year 2020, Nigeria is still ranked as one of the poorest nations in the globe (Aderinoye, Nwachukwu, Salawu & Popoola, 2015). In 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) period commenced, the countries of Africa accounted for over 60% of the world poverty rate. The report of the World Poverty clock as presented by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that as at 2018, Nigeria has taken over from India as the nation that has the most extreme poor people in the globe. See figure 1.3 below.



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, (2019)

Figure 1.3: Global poverty profile 2018

The above table indicates that 89 million people which represents about 50% of the country estimated population of 180 million people are living in poverty. The report shows that out of the 10 countries of the world where poverty is rising per World Poverty Clock data, 8 of them are from Africa and Nigeria is currently leading the chart, which is why it is referred to as the poverty capital of the world and majority of such poor people live in the rural areas of the country. Another worrying aspect of the report is the fact that it was still estimated that by the year 2030, Nigeria is still projected to be at the top as the country with the highest poverty rate globally with the total population of about 111 million remaining in poverty. See figure 1.4 below.