INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IJPADS)

Volume: [1] **| Issue:** [2] **|** Pages: 59-77 | **| Date:** [December, 2024]

Open Access Journal. Accessible online via https://ijpads.com

EFFECT OF TOWN UNION ADMINISTRATION ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NJIKOKA AND ANAOCHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF ANAMBRA STATE NIGERIA (2019-2023)

KENNETH EKENE, UGWUANYI

Department of Public Administration, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.
Email: ke.ugwuanyi@unizik.edu.ng

PROF B.C NWANKWO

Department of Public Administration, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.
Email: bc.nwankwo@unizik.edu.ng

Abstract

This study titled effect of town union administration on community development in Njikoka and Anaocha local Government Areas of Anambra State (2019-2023) had two objectives To investigate town union administrations' intervention in the functionality of government owned primary schools and to assess how town union administration utilizes community funds for infrastructural development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023, Community-Action Research Model by Ozanne and Anderson (2010) was adopted as theoretical framework of analysis for this study. The population of this study is six hundred and sixteen thousand five hundred (616.500) male and female indigenes of Njikoka and Anaocha LGA with sample size of 400 respondents. The study revealed that town union administration intervenes in the functionality of government owned primary schools and town union administration utilizes community funds for infrastructure development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State within 2019-2023. The study concluded that town union administration embarks on infrastructural projects in government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha local government area of Anambra State like construction of class room blocks, provision of borehole and other service oriented projects like recruitment of

auxiliary teachers in schools and encouraging every child to go to school. It disagrees that town union administration monitors teachers' attendance in public primary schools and gets approval for projects they want to embark upon from their meetings and unfortunately town union administration don't account for fund received within their tenure of office.

Keywords: Town Union Administration, Community, Community Development, Njikoka and Anaocha LGA of Anambra State Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Town union administration being most recent form of administration at the grassroots level appears to be getting massive acceptance, having witnessed for a reasonable time gradual decline in performance of other form of government at the grassroots level. Town unions being associations formed by a group of persons from the same locale whose main priorities are to serve as an agency of community through which innovations and development purposes are achieved (Atuonwu 2021). Citizens at the community level continue to lose confidences as they hardly witness new projects emanating from either the federal government or being carried along by the other levels of government on their plans for the community. The masses trust in the national government has been battered by the failure of governments' top-down strategy and the absence of participation from the general public in the bottom-up method.(Amadi and Olewe 2023). All these gave credence to people's choice of town union administration as a self help tools for advancing their standard of living. This nostalgic feeling may be regarded as the magic wand that some communities have used in placing town unions as a useful instrument for achieving self-reliance and development of rural areas in Nigeria (Ugwu, 2013).Several towns have continue to provide one form of developmental structure or the other using town union platform, as it have been a veritable tools for harnessing human, financial and material resources of the town for development of their own place.

Today, virtually all Nigerian local communities have traditional rulers and town unions which stand as focal points on which these communities are planned, organized and controlled to achieve human needs. Town Union Administration being the coordination of man, material and financial resources of a town for development of such town have advanced from mare gathering of people of the same town in a meeting for few days to more

solidified ways of improving the standard of living of community members. Most recently town union administration engages all stakeholders to draft developmental budget for their towns. That includes expected income and expenditure of the town putting the town's revenue strength, financial strength of indigenes, capacity of the current executive to attract government and non-governmental organization to their town, their friends and associates into considerations. Such budget or blue print as the case might be usually specify projects and services the leadership wish to implement either annually or within their tenure in line with the extant laws regulating them. Ideally these projects ought to originate from the need gap of the community, which makes it interesting as they all pull their efforts together to ensure its logical conclusion. Usually such projects are financed by either through community level, pooled internally generated revenue, donors or interventions of internal or external sources etc. For such leadership to emerge, democratic process is observed. Elections are conducted routinely to elect people of proven integrity that will pilot the affairs of their towns within their agreed period with respect to the laws backing up the establishment of each town executives

Community connotes several meanings as people defined it in line with its peculiarities to them. The term community is been applicable in several ways, some scholars refers to community as a gemeinschaft, for them a community have to do with conglomeration of people with a strong sense of common identity and personal relationship and for others scholars, a community have to do with no personal attachment rather living within a defined boundary.

Going further, we could see people who are born within a certain environment, they attend school there, observe same culture and other social activities that increases their personal relationship, such persons could be said to be in the same community, similarly people could be living far away from each other but have one thing or the other that brings them together in a defined territory. For-instance, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka is a community. All the staff, students and private individual having direct activities in such environment is said to be in the same community. Community may have key features like defined territory, culture, norms, bye laws etc.

Community Development has to do with all activities geared towards advancing standard

of living within a defined territory. According to Australian Institute of Family Studies AIFS (2023) Community development is a process where community members take collective action on issues that are important to them. This might be done with or without the support of a community development professional or agency. Community development is intended to empower community members and create stronger and more connected communities. It is very pertinent to institute mechanism that will propel development at the community level. For a country to be said to have developed, such a country must have a developed community. Community development which is likened to bottom-up development strategy will be faster in spreading development simultaneously across communal levels in a state.

For community to develop there has to be a leadership structure to plan, underscore the community needs and embrace their felt need. Without any leadership structure on ground most projects for community are often not what the community need. The implication of not having leadership in a community is verse, but in respect to project execution and maintenance, it will affect the quality of work done by either the contractors handling the project not following the specification or the quality of material used being reduced to maximize their profit. Completed project may face the risk of not being used for the purpose, it is meant for, poor maintenance, and vandalisation of the structure after a while etc.

Community effective leadership is a Sin-qua-non to community development as community leadership play greater role in ensuring not only that community develop, but having community felt need projects irrespective of the source of such projects.

Statement of the Problem

Today's town union administration is dealing with internal crises brought unto it by the inability of man to give up control, a rift in politics, and other unimportant problems (Amadi and Olewe 2023). The assertion of the authors above is becoming a general scenario in Anambra State Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government was not exempted. It took the intervention of Anambra State Government to resolve high profiled town union leadership crises in Adazi-Nnukwu Community in Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State which was connected to sit tight syndrome.

In some instances lives were lost, because of pursuance of imbedded interest in the town union leadership. The negative implications of this trend are such that most indigenes who are not ready for crises may wish not to participate in any of the processes, if such continue for a while the overall goal of using town union as drive for grassroots participation in politics and governance will be defeated. To ensure sustenance in this regard, educating the communal members becomes very crucial which should start from the primary education level.

Primary education is the first level in education which is the foundation base of education upon which all other levels of education are built upon. It is the education for children between the ages of 6 and 11 (Nwakpa, 2015). Education being very critical for overall advancement of man must be taken very serious by all level of government and stakeholders concerned, unfortunately the sector is abysmally neglected. Public Primary schools is the most affected as the key financier being Anambra State government budgeted only two billion naira in 2023 appropriation act, 4th quarter performance reported that some heading within the basic primary school had no remittances made to them. In the headings of Rehabilitation & Re-equipping of Primary schools, zero budgets were made in the year 2023 (Anambra State Government 2023 Budget Performance Report Quarter 4 P. 89). According to National Policy on Education (2013) section 2 sub section 11(e) summarized the core aim while Federal Government wished to intervene in primary education by establishing Universal Basic Education (UBE) to ensure the acquisition of the appropriate levels of literacy, numeracy, communicative and life skills as well as the ethical moral, security and civic values needed for the laying of a solid foundation for life-long learning.

Most of the primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas are far from meeting up with the above position of the federal government due to various challenges ranging from shortage of government employed and qualified teachers, poor monitoring of the activities of the employed teachers as most of them refused to relocate to their place of primary assignment, infrastructural decay, obsolete teaching tools, allowing unqualified person into school management committee amongst others. To correct the above anomalies calls for not only having reasonable amount of fund but also ensuring proper utilization of the available funds.

Fund being adjudged as a life wire of any organization continue to pose monstrous stance in the management of town based organization. Town union elected executives may have made one promise or the other before being elected into office by their people. For such promises to be executed finance must play critical role. Sources of income to various communities differ as some do have what raises stable income for them while others may depend on donations, grants from government, fines and levies.

Atuonwu (2021) stated that despite this modest effort by the town unions in rural development, they are still constrained by some factors such as lack of funds due to high prevalence of poverty in many rural communities and illiteracy pervades the ranks and file of town unions. Managing the community fund irrespective of the sources in some quarter poses a big challenge as some President Generals shy away from observing the principle of probity and accountability thereby plunging their community into crises as some persons may definitely ask questions as regards how their money were used. Such if not checkmated can lead to having parallel executive like experienced in Nawfia most recently.

The above pointed challenges motivated the researchers to delve into decision of researching on town union administration and community development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government areas of Anambra State within the time frame 2019-2023

Objectives of Study

The broad objective of this study is to assess the effects of town union administration on community development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023.

Specific objectives are;

1. To investigate town union administrations' intervention in the functionality of government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeia 2019-2023.
2. To assess how town union administration utilizes community funds for infrastructural development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023

Research Questions

1. What are the effects of town union intervention in the functionality of Government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023?
2. To what extent does town union administration utilizes community funds for infrastructural development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023?

Hypotheses

This study adopted null hypotheses

1. H_o: Town union administration does not intervene in the functionality of government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023
2. Ho: Town union administration does not utilize community funds for infrastructure development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria 2019-2023.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Explanations

Town Union

Town Union has no undisputed trace of its origin, some scholars referred to its formation to British colonial masters in Nigeria while some scholars posited that its existence in our cline predate the colonial masters however recent structure and functionality in the eastern Nigeria could be traced topmost Nigeria/Biafra civil war around 70s when the Igbo Nations were in search of solutions for self-help to remedy the intense infrastructure destruction from the war. Oke (2021) stated that town union being a major or principal agent or element of positive change in the Socio-Political organization of the people, introduced by colonialism, town union government turns out to be a very important and unavoidable instrument of self-help approach to community development in the post-colonial period, and by the end of the Nigeria Biafra War, its effect became very visible. Town union governance have always been there with the people before the amalgamation of northern and southern protectorate in 1914, traditional rulers and town unions were outstanding authorities in the local governance of diverse Nigerian communities (Nwobodo and Chinweuba 2021). Obiakor and Okoreaffia (2021) posited that even though most Igbo communities had formed town union governments by the time Nigeria

gained independence in 1960, some others had to wait till the 1970s when the benefits of such unions could no longer be underrated or overlooked.

The relevance of town union administration cannot be over emphasized; it is a veritable tool to perpetuate bottom-top approach to development since top down approach failed. Reinvigoration of town union is a testament of loss of public trust in the central authority and the failure of governments' top-down strategy for development (Amadi and Olowe, 2023). For town union administration to effectively serve as a bottom-top approach to national development shows that is meant to galvanize national economy through rural development. Emejulu and Okafor (2020)

> Clarified that the above thought is a paradigm shift from the events of the 1960s and 1970s when economic theorists and development actors centered on growth resulting from national economic development plans and their multiplier effects on massive capital investment. The logic then was that once the national economy was made to flourish, the development of rural economy automatically follows suit.

Town Union Administration could be likened to Thomas Hobbes social contract theory where man surrendered their personal rights for a government to be formed at the communal level with high expectation of engendering a platform to improve their welfare, protect the weak from intimidations of the mighty and encourage their people to volunteer their resources and skills for overall advancement of their land. It is paramount to state here that mans' inability of using the statutory institution of the state to meet the masses expectation as it affects, their freedom, security and welfare created the gap for renaissance of town union administration in advanced form. Dike and Iwuji (2020) opined that in South - eastern Nigeria, the philosophy of Town Union participation in rural community development is increasingly seen as an important link for grassroots societal development, and as an instrument for mobilizing resources for people's wellbeing

Community

Community could mean a group of people dwelling in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. It could also be explained to mean a group of people sharing or having certain culture attitude and interest in common (Oke, 2021). Craig

(2020) opined that Community transcends place-based and physical characteristics to encompass abundant diverse psychological, social, and environmental attributes, cultures, and histories found among individuals and groups. The author went further to assert that community cannot be said to have developed or developing without putting two of the following into consideration which are: Quality of Life (QoL) and Community Well-being (CWB). Community could also be seen to be very fundamental for coming together of persons within a defined territory to adopt for themselves norms and cultures suitable for their peaceful co-existence and development.

Community is generally expected to be operating in a manner that encourages development. These could be achieved through setting up leadership structure that can attract best qualified members of the community into community leadership positions. Such community leaders should have the capacity to harmonize efforts of the community members towards encouraging peaceful coexistence among community members and that of their neighboring community, identifying, planning and implementation of generally accepted development projects which community members could take ownership of and utilize to improve the quality of lives of the community members. Ugwu and Bako (2014) did emphasis that for a community to be harmonious, peaceful, united and progressive, it must be well organized with effective and efficient administration. They described community as a conduit pipe where government/non-governmental programmes are channeled.

Community Development

Emejulu and Okafor (2020) Community development which is a strand of developmental studies in international studies has been acknowledged as significant for local historic, social, economic, cultural, environmental and political development by international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, World Health Organization, European Union, African Union amongst others. Oke (2021) Community development depicts the patriotic passion and love of the indigenous people of a community to enhance their livelihood and that of the generations yet unborn.

For a community to develop these five conditions of wellbeing for community development practice is paramount which

are creating a sense of community; strong volunteering ethos; networking and partnership working; positive language; enhanced relationships. (Coburn and Gormally, 2020). These are very critical because community development is all encompassing. For anyone to initiate a development for his/her community, the person must have embraced such environment, therefore having sense of community which motivates to volunteer for actions. According to Future Generation University (2020) Publications:

> Community development is a holistic approach and an organized effort initiated to assist a group of people in a community to lead a better lifestyle. As the term suggests, it is the combination of community with a development that aims to enhance people's living standards in a community. In this, people must have faith that working together can make a difference in making the community development programme successful.

From the above postulations community members having faith that their coming together will improve their welfare sparks volume on the critical need for quality leadership at the community level which have to be anchored on key community development principles like; participative democracy, human right, social justice and equity with empowerment and inclusiveness.

Community Development is a complex way that is devoid of one aspect of life, but involves total community life and needs which preferably demand full active participations of community members in decision making and implementations with or without extra support to project their future and that of their community positively for the entire benefit of members (Udu and onwe, 2016). Communities are projected as models for passive, social friendly driven environment, especially when such communities are marginalized and poor in their native ancestral homes (Philip, 2015). Community development should be the concern of all stakeholders looking at its' direct positive impact on community members and the larger society alike. Ugwuanyi, Nwobi and Chukwurah (2022) asserted that Community development is not immune from the challenges ravaging the entire society such as lack of competent cum committed leadership at community level, poor financial and material resources, irrespective of the adduced challenges.

Theoretical framework

This study is anchored on "Community-Action Research Model as theoretical framework of analysis for the study. The major proponent of the theory was Ozanne and Anderson (2010).

Tenets of the Theory

Community Action Research Model is an alternative research method that uses the community as the unit of analysis, The Community Action Research Model (CAR) is a model whose process and methods are flexible resources that are applied according to the emergence of the precise problem to be addressed, the specific needs of the community, and the capacities of the researcher (Koch and Kralik 2006).However, the guiding principles of CAR are articulated, and the challenges of applying these principles are explored. The first stage of CAR focuses on developing community partnerships and identifying needs and resources. During the second phase, a focal problem is agreed on, additional data on the problem are collected, and these data are analyzed and presented to community members so that they can participate in dialogue, reflection, and analysis to shape the research. The third and final stage of research involves developing a specific program of action and the evaluation of this intervention for the general stages and guiding principles.

Applicability of the theory

For town union executive to achieve community development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Governments of Anambra State, they ought to develop community partnership which could be intra-community partnership and extra community partnership. The former has to do with partnering with sub unit groups in the community like age grades, women groups, philanthropist amongst them etc and the later focus on building relationships with neighboring communities and the larger sector of the society to advance development in their community. Having partnered with the aforementioned, they now agree on solving a particular problem with keen effort to unravel all related information and finally commence implementation on the project with a clear intent of advancing the wellbeing of the indigenes.

Empirical Literature

The following recent journals related to this research topic were reviewed.

Onoh and Oruchukwu (2024), worked on an Assessment of the role of town union development in the development of Akwuke (Enugu South Local government of Enugu State), survey research design. The result showed that there was a significant influence of perception, self-concept and corruption on town union participation in community development projects. Corruption has a negative impact that undermines trust and participation, whereas positive attitudes and a strong self-concept promote active involvement.

Izunna (2024) researched on Town Unions and Community Development in Ebonyi State: A Case Study of Onicha Local Government. Descriptive research methodology was adopted. The study uncovered that community development efforts led by the Town Union in Ebonyi State are not significantly deficient. It suggested that with adequate resources and support, Town Unions could serve as effective channels for community development.

Rao (2022), researched on Role of Youth in Community Development (A Study With Reference to Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh), Survey Research Design was adopted, In this study many youths have participated in various welfare activities like awareness camps, health immune activities and community welfare activities. But many of the youth are not awarded on the knowledge of welfare activities in the community level because of lack of motivation, mobilization but in this area, youth are actively participated in social activities but in the commercial area like city, business-oriented areas of people not participated in community developmental activities. In this area of youth faced major problems as drug addiction, alcoholism, unemployment, smoking, and corruption etc, those all are major problems regarding to the youth.

Annor-Frempong, Akaba and Obeng-Baah (2021), studied a work titled the challenge of participation in community Development Activities in rural Ghana: implications for effective development communication, Sequential-dependence mixed method design was applied. The study found that, apart from awareness creation on development problems and problem identification, project beneficiaries and local authorities were lowly satisfied with participation in planning activities. Again, satisfaction with participation in evaluation activities of the project was low among beneficiaries and local authorities. Also, no

significant difference manifested in the overall satisfaction with participation among project beneficiaries irrespective of differences in sex and marital status.

Research Methodology

Area of study

This study is carried out at Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria. Njikoka Local Government has 6 towns which are Abagana, Abba, Enugu-Agidi, Enugu Ukwu, Nawfia and Nimo. The Local Government headquarter is situated at Abagana Town, the local government shares boarder with Awka South to the west, Awka North to the East, Dunukofia to the North and Idemili North LGA to the South. The indigenes and residence are largely traders and farmers and few public/civil servants. Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State has ten towns which are Aguluzigbo, Agulu, Neni, Ichida, Adazi-Ani, Adazi-Enu, Adazi-Nnukwu Akwaeze, Nri, and Obeledu. The Local Government head quarter is situated at Neni. It's sharing boarder with Njikoka to the East Awka South to the west, Aguata to the South. Faculty of Pharmacy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University is located at Agulu town. NAFDAC office is equally situated at Agulu with several tourism cite like Agulu lake, tilap hotel amongst others.

Research Design

This study is carried out using descriptive survey research design due to the nature of information that will be required. It will include collection of data from the respondents and analyze such data for the purpose of making generalization.

Sources of Data

The data of this study is sourced mainly from primary and secondary sources. Primary sources was elicited using 5 point structured likert scale of questionnaire, where 1 represent Disagree, 2 Strongly Disagree, 3 Undecided, 4 Agree and 5Strongly Agree.

Secondary sources was sourced from the published journals, books and internet material

Method of Data Collection

This study used questionnaire for primary data collection. The questionnaire had two sections A and B, while section A served as introduction letter, B contained demographic data and main questionnaire items. Four hundred questionnaires were produced in line with the sample size of the study. The

questionnaires were distributed to the selected five towns in each of the local government Areas. In line with the percentage allocation of sample sizes, one hundred and thirty six (136) questionnaires were distributed to the following selected five towns in Njikoka local Government Areas of Anambra State which are; Abagana, Abba, Enugu-Agidi, Nawfia and Nimo Towns. In the same vein, two hundred and sixty four questionnaires were equally shared to the five selected towns in Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State which are; Aguluzigbo, Neni, Adazi-Nnukwu, Akwaeze, and Obeledu towns.

Population of Study

The population of this study comprised of the population of the males and females of indigenes of Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria. The population of Njikoka is two hundred and eleven thousand five hundred persons as projected population 211,500 (Citypopulation.de), in the same vein the population of Anaocha Local Government Area is four hundred and five thousand male and female indigenes 405,000 (Citipopulation.de). Therefore, the population of this study is six hundred and sixteen thousand five hundred 616.500 male and female indigenes of Njikoka and Anaocha LGA indigenes persons

Sample Size Determination

Sample size of this study was determined using Taro Yamane's formula for sample size determination having ascertained the population of the study as six hundred and sixteen thousand five hundred persons (616,500). 400 male and female was the sample size of the study.

Sampling Technique

Multi Stage Sampling Technique was adopted for this study. The researcher adopted purposive sampling technique to select participants for the distribution of the questionnaire. For one to be qualified to be issued with the questionnaire of this study the person must meet the inclusion criteria below:

- The person must be an Indigene of Njikoka/ Anaocha LGA of Anambra or must have resided in the area for at least five years.
- The person must be up to twenty years of age. This is to ensure that the researcher is dealing with matured minds who can understand the role of town union administration towards community development.

- The person must have resided in the areas of study for at least five years.
- The person must have completed at least secondary education or its equivalent.

The researcher equally used convenient random sampling technique to select five towns each from both local government areas. The names of the entire sixteen towns in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas were written down and the researcher used most available persons to randomly select five towns each from the two local government areas. This was done to give both local government equal representations.

Method of Data Analysis

This study was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 23 as major analytical tools. Chi-square used for hypotheses

Validity of the Instrument

The instrument for primary data collection which is questionnaire was validated using face and content validity.

Content validity of the questionnaire was also conducted to ensure that the questionnaire items measures the research questions appropriately.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Test of Hypotheses

This subsection dwelled in analyzing outcome of the study to the hypotheses formulated in section one of this of this study to direct the research. The analysis is based on the signs and significance of the coefficients of the parameters that were used to test the study's hypotheses. The hypotheses were tested using Chi-Square. IBM SPSS 2. Was used as instrument for the analysis

Table 4.3.1

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
TU_PPSCH	382	15.3508	2.85475	8.00	23.00
TU_FMGT	382	16.0340	3.08776	9.00	22.00

Source: Ugwuanyi's SPSS field Data 2024

TU_PPSCH is an acronym for town union intervention on Government owned primary schools whereas TU_FMGT connote town union administration's utilization of community fund for development.

Table 4.3.1

Chi-Square **Statistics**

Variables	**TU_PPSCH**	**TU_FMGT**
Cv	244.513[a]	204.021[b]
Df	15	13
Tv	23.9	27.3
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000

Source: Ugwuanyi's SPSS field Data 2024

Decision: The two null hypotheses were rejected and alternate hypotheses accepted looking at the fact that calculated values known as Cv are higher than table value referred to as Tv at significant level of P= .000. See table 4.3.1 above.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary of Findings

This study found the following:

1. Town union administration intervenes in the functionality of government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State within 2019-2023. The implications of this finding resulted to the positive response of town union administration in providing classroom

blocks, recruitment of auxiliary teachers, provision of borehole and encouraging children to go to school.

2. Town union administration utilizes community funds for infrastructure development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State within 2019-2023. This implies that town union administration did their best in ensuring that approved budgets are implement

Conclusion

This research study titled "Effects of Town Union Administration on Community Development in Njikoka and Anaocha Local Government Areas of Anambra State Nigeria (2019-2023)" observed that town union administration embarks on infrastructural projects in government owned primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha local government area of Anambra State like construction of class room blocks, provision of borehole and other service oriented projects like recruitment of auxiliary teachers in public primary schools and encouraging every child to go to school, but disagrees that town union administration monitors teachers attendance in public primary schools in Njikoka and Anaocha LGA of Anambra State within the study time frame. In the same manner, the study concludes that town union administrations gets approval for projects they want to embark upon from their meetings but unfortunately don't account for fund received within their tenure of office.

Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. Government of Anambra state should initiate policy that will empower town union administration to monitor activities of public primary schools in their towns.
2. To minimize embezzlement of fund meant for development of town, state government should administrative measures to ensure that every town union administration account for funds received within their tenure before handing over to the next administration.

Contributions to Knowledge

The **s**tudy reinvest the role of non state development actors in the development of communities and the rural areas by establishing the unique role of town unions administration in the functionality of government owned primary schools, this

study has contributed to existing knowledge in the area of development administration.

References

Ababio, E.P (2014) Enhancing community participation in developmental local government for improved service delivery, Journal of public administration, 39(2)

Amadi, S.C. and Olewe, B.N. (2024), Contributions of Town Unions Administration on Rural Development in Southeast, Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Social Development,* 11(1)

Anambra State Government (2023) Budget Performance Report Quarter 4

Atuonwu, C.I. (2021), Igwebuike: Oboro Development Union and Community Development in Southeastern Nigeria. *Canadian social science*, 17(6)

Coburn, A and Gormally, S. (2020), Defining well-being in community development from the ground up: A case study of participant and practitioner perspectives, *Community Development Journal, 55*(2), 237-257.

Dike, F.U and Iwuji, S.E (2020), Town Union Government as an effective tool towards Grassroots development in Imo State: The Abba Development Union (ADU) example, from 1979-2015. *Emerald international Journal of scientific and contemporary studies.*1 (1).

Emejulu, I. and Okafor, H.I. (2020), Town Union and Community Development: Contributions of Nzuko-Arochukwu to the Socio-Economic Growth of Arochukwu, 1981-2017, Ajol

Ejiro, U.O., Stephen, A.O and Peter, O. (2019), the role of non-governmental organizations in community economic development: using a system dynamic approach.

Enyi, J.E (2014), Rural and Community Development in Nigeria: An Assessment, Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review (Nigerian Chapter) 2(2) https://aifs.gov.au/resources/resource-sheets/what-community-development.

Izunna, O.C (2024), Town Unions and Community Development in Ebonyi State: A Case Study of Onicha Local Government, IRE Journals, 7(12)

Ibietan, J. (2014) Conceptual Issues in Development Administration: International Journal of Innovative Education Research 2 (2):19-31

Obiakor, N.J and Okoreaffia, S.O (2021) Town Union Governments and Community Development in Igbo land: the Amakofia Ututu Case, 1979-2015, *International scholars Journal of Arts and social science research*

Odoom, D., Annor-Frempong, F., Akaba, S., Agyepong, L., Obeng-Mensah, A. and Obeng-Baah, J. (2021), The challenge of participation in community Development Activities in rural Ghana: implications for effective development communication, Tanzania Journal of Development studies, Vol. 19(1)

Oke, G.E (2021), Town union governments and community development in Igboland: A Study of Nrobo Community, Sapientia foundation *Journal of Education, Sciences and Gender Studies, 3(3).*

Onoh, F.C and Oruchukwu, N.B (2024), An assessment of the role of town union development in the development of Awuke (Enugu South Local government of Enugu State), journal of political Discourse 2(3), P 80-94

Phil B. (2020), what is Community? A Sociological Perspective.

Reo, R.J (2022) Role of Youth in Community Development (A Study With Reference to Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh), international journal of multidisciplinary educational research, 5(16)

Talmage, C.A. (2020), Community Development, Quality of Life, and Community Well-Being: Three Fields Ripe with Opportunities for Future Research and Practice, *Community Development Practice*: 24(1) Article 4. Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/cdpractice/vol24/iss1/4

Udeuhele, G.I (2019), political economy of town unions and rural development: a study of south east geo-political zone, Nigeria International Journal of Community Research Vol. 8(4): 93-102.

Wolf-Powers, L. (2018), Community Benefits Agreements and Local Government, journal of American Planning Association 76(2)