Examination of the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria. The study was guided by the following research objectives: to determine the Demographic profile of the respondents and to examine the level of governance in Gombe local government. This study adopted mixed approaches, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches and using descriptive survey for data collection. Data was collected using researcher's devised questionnaires. Frequency and percentage distributions were used to analyze respondents'profile. Means was used for the level of Governance in Gombe local government in Nigeria. Findings revealed that the level of governance in Gombe local government in Nigeria had an average mean of 2.20 and was interpreted as fair. The researcher concluded that role of government in community development is to simply work closely with other players in the community development system and working closely can improve speed and smoothness in administrative and regulatory tasks, probably at limited cost.
Keywords: Examination, level, governance, Gombe, local government and Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The concept Governance was used for the first time in a metaphorical sense by Plato, It then passed on to Latin and then on to many languages [1]. It relates to decisions that define expectations, grant power, or verify performance. It consists of either a separate process or part of management or leadership processes [2]. These processes and systems are typically administered by a government. The World Bank [3] defines governance as: the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development. The Worldwide Governance Indicators project of the World Bank defines governance as: The traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. This considers the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies and the respect of citizens and the state of the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them. An alternate definition sees governance as: the use of institutions, structures of authority and even collaboration to allocate resources and coordinate or control activity in society or the economy [4]. According to worldwide governance indicators (WGI) Nigeria got 55points out of the 100points in 2000 using freedom house standardized scale

while in 2002 Kaufmann government: effectiveness where the maximum point is two (2) and minimum is negative two (-2) Nigeria was in negative one (-1). The six areas where WGI rank on Nigeria 1996-2011 which are Voice and accountability (Citizen participation, independent media) Political instability and violence (Threat of state coup) Government effectiveness (Quality of civil service) Regulatory burden (Market-unfriendly policies) Rule of law (Perceptions of crime, effective judiciary, enforceable contracts) Corruption (Perceptions of corruption) none of these rank up to 40%. This shows that the level of governance in the country is declining. (http://info.worldbank.org/governance/).

The idea of community development first began to feature strongly in social and public policy in Britain in the late 1960s. In all of these early initiatives the idea of community development was linked to assumptions concerning system dysfunction‖, the problem of community development was either seen in terms of the dysfunctional outcome of social and economic progress or in terms of dysfunctional families and social networks [5-6]. While this idea that community development was something the poor and underprivileged needed has remained resilient, with public and social policy, the ensuing decade brought new concepts of community development into public policy, both in Britain and internationally [7].

Early history of community development in Africa and Asia was influenced by colonial policies and practices together with the efforts of missionaries. Education as the main community development intervention and conversion to Christianity were intertwined [8]. Mass education was seen as the beginning of the evolution and the progressive institutionalization of community development as an arm of government policy. These early efforts of western education (included health, home life training, industry, agriculture and recreation) are part of community development [9-10]. In 1928 at a meeting in Jerusalem for the International Missionary Council, a statement was made which contained what appears to be the first official usage of the term-community development [11-13]. Prior to this the community development process was given a number of different labels such as community consciousness, advancement of the community as a whole, rural betterment and rural reconstruction [14-16]. With the independence of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma in the late 1940s and Nigeria in 1960, the focus fell on Africa and community development as it was very clear that community development would be a definite feature of the British [9-10].

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study was to examine the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria

Research question

What is level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria?

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the level of governance and community development.

Scope of the study
Geographical scope

The research location of this study was limited to Gombe local government, which is the capital of Gombe state of Nigeria and the largest and populace area

of the state with growing number of communities living in the stretch of the capital.

Content scope

This purely focuses empirical investigation on the effect of governance on community development.

Time scope

The data was collected from August 2012 to April 2013

Theoretical scope

The traditional classical development theories (i.e. modernization and dependency) are deemed appropriate and have, consequently, been selected to serve as a base for this study.

METHODOLODY

Research Design

This study was conducted using a correlation design. In this study the independent variable (Governance) was manipulated to examine it relationship with the dependent variable (community development).

Research population

Gombe local Government has a total of 52 senior staff as of 2012 and a total of nine communities with 98 districts heads and clan leaders making the total to 150. (http://gombestate.gov.ng/Gombe-Local-Government.html). Out of 150 only 109 make up the accessible population. The target population consisted of an accessible population of 150 respondents, which included the staff and administrator of Gombe local government, Nigeria as well as local leaders and districts heads. These respondents are categorized into two as follows:

(1) **The local government** which comprised of the staff and management of Gombe local government and

(2) **The community** which is made up of the districts heads and clan leaders.

Table 1: Categories of Sample

Categories of expect respondent	Population
Local Government	33
Community	76
Total	**109**

Sample Size

The sample size of the study consisted of 109 respondents selected from staff and administrators of Gombe local government, Nigeria as well as clan leaders and districts heads. Of which 76 were chosen from local government employees and 33 were selected from community. This number of 109 has been chosen according to the Slovene's formula for sample size, which is as follows:

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

Where:

n = sample size

N = target population

e = level of significance = **e = 0.05 = e^2 = $(0.05)^2$ =<u>0.0025</u>**

$$n = \frac{150}{1 + 150(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{150}{1 + 150(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{150}{1 + 0.375}$$

$$n = \frac{150}{1.375}$$

n = 109

Sampling Procedure

Stratified random sampling will be utilized to select respondents based on criteria

i. The respondents sector (management and staff of local government)

ii. The respondents village, district or division (Community)

From the list of qualified respondents chosen based on the inclusion criteria, the systematic sampling was used and we finally select the respondents in each stratum with consideration to the computed minimum sample size.

Research Instrument

The study employed three (3) different research instruments as the main tool for collecting data in the field such as Questionnaire. The first Questionnaire used was face sheet, which was used to collect data on profile of the respondent. The second Questionnaire was on governance, which involved the six indicators of good governance (i) Voice and Accountability, (ii) Political Stability and Absence of Violence, (iii) Government Effectiveness, (iv) Regulatory Quality, v) Rule of Law, and (vi) Control of Corruption. The third Questionnaire used was on community development which involved the following terms; poverty, illiteracy, bribery and corruption, bad governance, and insufficient fund among others. The questionnaires consist of close ended questions however, choosing such method was to save time during the information gathering period. The self-administered questionnaires were given to the respondents those who are able to read and write and those who can't read and write were helped by the researcher on filling the questionnaires. The close ended questionnaires allowed respondents to express their views, attitude, and feeling. Besides the questionnaire, the researcher conducted discussions with the respondents who are unable to read and write, to simplify and make understandable to them the questionnaires, so they can easily answer. Furthermore, the researcher observed and notes the respondent's information including their reaction, and physical appearances through discussion.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

Validity and reliability of the research instruments was concerned with the extent to which the research instrument yields the same results (Amin, 2005). The validity of the research was ensured using the Content Validity Index (CVI). As follows:

$$CVI = \frac{\text{No of items declared valid}}{\text{Total no of items}}$$

The results of the content validity index are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Content Validity Index results

Variable	Total No of items	Number of valid items	CVI
Governance	10	8	0.800
Community development	12	10	0.833

Source: Expert Judgments

Table 2 shows that governance yielded CVI of 0.800 while community development yielded a CVI of 0.833. Since all variables yielded a CVI above 0.70 then according to [11] it is accepted for social sciences, it was concluded that the instrument was relevant in measuring governance and community development and therefore had a good validity. On the other hand, reliability is trustworthiness and in the context of a measuring instrument, it is a degree to which the instrument consistently whatever it's measuring [12]. In this study, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient values of 0.70 were accepted as the minimum accepted for social sciences (Amin, 2005) and the results are shown below as generated from SPSS.

Table 3: Reliability results

Variable	Total No of items	Cronbach' alpha
Governance	10	0.812
Community development	12	0.837

Source: Primary data

Table 3 shows that Governance yielded Cronbach's alpha value of 0.812 while community development yielded Cronbach's alpha value of 0.837. Since all variable yielded alpha values above 0.70 as accepted for social sciences, it was concluded that the instrument had a good reliability.

Data Gathering Procedures

After the researcher proposal was approved, the researcher applied for introduction letter from CHDR-KIU, which was given to him and which allows him to collect data from the field. Afterwards, the researcher collected the data; and it was entered into Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS version 16) to help generate the required statistics. The data was then analyzed to draw conclusion from research. At end the researcher submitted the final report to the concerned authorities.

Data Analysis

After the researcher sorting out the valid questionnaires and coding accomplished, to derive useful meaning from the data, and examine the propositions of this study, data from the survey were analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 16. The following descriptive and inferential statistical approaches were applied:-

    a) To determine the

demographic profile of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education and profession.

b) To examine the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria.

A. For the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria

Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation
3.50-4.00	Strongly agree	Very high
2.50-3.49	Agree	High
1.50-2.49	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.49	Strongly disagree	Very low

B. For the level of community development in Gombe local government, Nigeria

Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation
3.50-4.00	Strongly agree	Very high
2.50-3.49	Agree	High
1.50-2.49	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.49	Strongly disagree	Very low

Ethical Considerations

The respondents whom data is collected from were kept confidential, and the data was used for academic purpose only. The respondents were informed of the main aim of the research and were presented with a letter of introduction which was secured from the CHDR-KIU. On the other hand, the authors quoted in this study were acknowledged through citations and referencing.

Limitations of the Study

The researcher claimed an acceptable level of significance $p \leq$ of 0.05 or 5% error in the view of the following anticipated threats to validity with relevance to this study.

1) Extraneous variables which was beyond the researcher's control such as respondent's honesty,

personal biases and uncontrolled setting of the study.

2) Instrumentation: the research instrument on Governance and community development in Gombe local government, Nigeria was not standardized. A validity and reliability test was done to produce credible research tool.

3) Testing: The use of research assistants can bring about inconsistency in the administration of the questionnaires in terms of time of administration, understanding of the items in the questionnaires and explanations given to the respondents. To minimize this threat, the research assistants was oriented and briefed on the procedures to be done in data collection.

4) Attrition/Mortality: Not all questionnaires maybe returned neither completely answered nor even retrieved back due to circumstances on the part of the respondents such as travels, sickness, hospitalization and refusal/withdrawal to participate. In anticipation to this, the researcher gave out more than enough questionnaires to the respondents by exceeding the minimum sample size. The respondents were also reminded not to leave any item in the questionnaires unanswered and was closely followed up as to the date of retrieval, and the sample size was achieved.

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA
What is the profile of the respondents?

The first research question of the study asked about the profile of the respondents. It gives the profile of respondents using a self-administered questionnaire. The profile of the respondents included aspects of gender, age, level of education and time worked with the organisation all filled on the questionnaire and the results are presented and analyzed in table two below.

Table 2: Profile of the respondents

	Demographic	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		69	63.3
	Male	40	36.7
	Female		
	Total	109	100
Age group	18-25	19	17.4
		37	33.9
	26-30	30	27.5
		23	21.1
	31-35	109	100
Education level		13	11.5
	certificate	27	23.9
	Diploma	68	60.2
	Degree	5	4.4
	Masters & PhD	109	100
Time worked	less than a year	29	25.7
	1-3	45	39.8
		16	14.1
	4-7yrs	23	20.4
		109	100
	8 and above		

Source: Primary data

Table 2: shows that the male respondents constituted the highest number of respondents representing 63.3% of the respondents while the female constituted only 36.7%. Table 2 further shows that the majority of respondents were aged between 26-30 years which constitute 33.3% of the respondents, followed by 27.5% who were aged between 31-35 years and 21.1% who were aged between 36years and above. Those who were aged 18-25 years constituted only 17.4% of the total number of respondents. This finding revealed that the respondents were of an economically active age and matures enough to understand issues of Governance and community development in Gombe, Nigeria. On the education level, table 2: shows that 60.2% had attained a University Degree as their highest level of education followed by 23.9% who had attained a Diploma, 11.5% who were certificate holders and 4.4% who had attained masters and PhD as their highest level of education. These findings suggest that respondents attained a reasonable level of education to understand issues on Governance and community development in Gombe, Nigeria. On the time worked, majority of 39.8% of the respondents had worked for 1-2 years followed by 25.7% who had worked for less than one year and 20.4% who had worked for 5 years and above while those who had worked for 2-4 years constituted 14.1% of the total number of respondents.

What is the level of Governance?

The second research question of the study was the level of Governance: measured using six indicators of good governance (i) Voice and Accountability, (ii) Political Stability and Absence of Violence, (iii) Government Effectiveness, (iv) Regulatory Quality, v) Rule of Law, and (vi) Control of Corruption on the Scale of four ratings which are Scale 4= strongly agree; 3= agree, 2= disagree; 1 = strongly disagree and the findings are presented here using mean statistics.

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation results for level Governance

	Voice and Accountability			
	Scale	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
1	Citizen's voice through citizen participation and independent media influence government policies	1.71	3	Low
2	Government is accountable to citizens for its decision	1.43	1	Very low
3	There is freedom of speech and association in the community	2.89	8	High
	Political stability and absence of violence			
	Scale	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
4	New governments tend to continue projects of their predecessors	1.40	1	Very low
5	There is peace and harmony in the communities	2.96	10	High
6	Policies are not stable as new governments come with their style	2.72	7	High
	Government effectiveness			
	Scale	Mean	Rank	Interpretation
7	The quality of civil service and government activities in general is good if not better	2.00	6	Low
8	Government officials tend to promote service Delivery	1.71	3	Low
9	─Servicom‖ has promoted the quality of government service to the public	1.48	2	Very low

Source: Primary data

	Regulatory Quality			
	Scale	**Mean**	**Rank**	**Interpretation**
10	Policies are properly evaluated periodically in line with laid down minimum standards	1.51	8	Low
11	Government policies are adequately implemented when they are made	1.55	9	Low
12	Regulatory bodies monitor, supervise and enforce minimum guidelines	2.93	11	High
	Rule of law			
	Scale	**Mean**	**Rank**	**Interpretation**
13	There is a strict adherence to Rule of Law	1.48	7	Very low
44	There is an independent and effective judiciary system	1.46	5	Very low
15	There is equality before the law as no one is above the law	1.44	3	Very low
	Control of corruption			
	Scale	**Mean**	**Rank**	**Interpretation**
16	The fight against Corruption is on course	1.56	10	Low
47	The level of Corruption is minimal	1.41	1	Very low
18	Government officials are honest and cannot be bribe	1.43	2	Very low

Source: Primary data

Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation
3.50-4.00	Strongly agree	Very high
2.50-3.49	Agree	High
1.50-2.49	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.49	Strongly disagree	Very low

Voice and accountability: Table 3: shows that the respondents dis agreed that Citizen's voice through citizen participation and independent media influence government policies in Gombe local Government, Nigeria. (Mean = 1.71) while they strongly disagreed that Government is accountable to citizens for its decision (Mean = 1.43) while they agreed that there is freedom of speech and association in the community(Mean = 2.89). These findings suggested that the level of voice and accountability in the community is low to some extends.

Political stability and absence of violence: New governments tend to continue projects of their predecessors (Mean = 1.40) while they agreed that There is peace and harmony in the communities (Mean = 2.96). The respondents also agreed that Policies are not stable as new governments come with their style (Mean =2.72) based on the findings political stability is fair but absence of violence in the communities is very satisfactory.

Government effectiveness: On Government effectiveness the respondents disagreed that The quality of civil service and government activities in general is good if not better(Mean = 2.00). They also disagreed that Government officials tend to promote service delivery (Mean = 1.71) while they strongly disagreed that-Servicom has promoted the quality of government service to the public (Mean 1.48). These findings revealed a low level of operations of Government in the community which show poor performance of the Government.

Regulatory Quality: The study found out that the respondents disagreed that Policies are properly evaluated periodically in line with laid down minimum standards (Mean 1.51) they also disagreed that Government policies are adequately implemented when they are made (Mean 1.55) while they agreed that Regulatory bodies monitor, supervise and enforce minimum guidelines (Mean 2.93) based on these findings regulatory quality is fair.

Rule of law: Based on the above matter the respondents strongly dis agreed that there is a strict adherence to Rule of Law (Mean 1.48) they also strongly disagreed that there is an independent and effective judiciary system (Mean 1.46) likewise they also strongly disagreed that there is equality before the law as no one is above the law (Mean 1.44). These findings revealed that Rule of law is poor.

Control of Corruption: Under control of corruption the respondents disagreed that the fight against Corruption is on course (Mean 1.56) while they strongly disagreed that the level of Corruption is minimal (Mean 1.41) and they also strongly disagreed that Government officials are honest and cannot be bribe (Mean 1.43). Based on the respondent's the control

of corruption is also poor like the Rule   of law.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Summary of findings

This study was guided by two objectives which comprised of (I.) to determine the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education and profession (II.) to examine the level of governance in Gombe local government, Nigeria. The first objective of the study was to determine the profile of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education and profession. The findings revealed that the male respondents (63.3%) are much more than the female respondents which comprised only (36.7%) and also the findings indicated that the study does not discriminate as there is a diverse in the age and educational background of the respondents. The second objective was the level of governance in Gombe local Government, Nigeria. Based on the analysis of chapter four the findings exposed that most of the respondents agreed, that Governance affect community development. While using the six indicators of Good Governance, i.e. (i) Voice and Accountability, (ii) Political Stability and Absence of Violence, (iii) Government Effectiveness, (IV.) Regulatory Quality, (v) Rule of Law, and (vi) Control of Corruption, the respondents respond to the level of governance is fair.

CONCLUSION

From the Study Findings, the conclusion is generated based on the purposes of the study as follows: Findings indicated that the level of Governance is fair as we gathered from the respondents using the six indicators of good governance which comprised of (i) Voice and Accountability, (ii) Political Stability and Absence of Violence, (iii) Government Effectiveness, (IV.) Regulatory Quality, (v) Rule of Law and (vi) Control of Corruption.

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