



## Local Government Administration and Rural Development: A Case of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria 2011-2020

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### Abstract:

This study investigates the role of Local Government Administration in Rural Development in Kwaya-Kusar local government Area of Borno State, Nigeria from 2011 to 2020. Local governments are created in Nigeria in order to provide basic social services that would improve the living conditions of the rural populace. Pursuant to this, the main aim of this study is to examine the specific contributions of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government Administration towards rural development; and to ascertain factors militating against its role, and suggest ways of enhancing rural development in the local government. The source of information for this study is primary and secondary sources. The population of the study consists of 56,500 people across the 10 wards in the local government Area out of which 100 were selected as this study sample using simple random sampling technique. Frequency and simple percentages were used in analysis of data. Findings from the study reveal that the contribution of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government to rural development has been mostly in the areas of construction of Primary Health Care (PHC) and establishment/renovation of new primary schools. However it has not made appreciable contribution in the provision of other infrastructure such as pipe born water, rural roads as well as educational development in the localities. The study therefore recommends that the local government council should find more ways of generating internal revenue for development of its areas, employ its educated and qualified youths in its service, encourage agricultural activities by subsidizing agricultural inputs, and ensure adequate security measures are put in place to protect communities of the area.

Keyword: Local government, administration, rural development, infrastructure, and education.

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### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nigeria is a country with a federal system of government where there is constitutional division of powers among the levels of government that is the central, state and local governments. Local government is the third tier of government in the country. It is often referred to as the government at the grassroots level. Development would not be meaningful if it does not affect the rural dwellers; it is as a result of this that local government was created to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the people at the grassroots level. The creation of local government in many countries stems from the need to facilitate development at the grassroots.

The importance of local government among others is a function of its ability to create a sense of belongingness, safety and satisfaction among its populace. In Nigeria's socio-political context, with the multiplicity of culture, diversity of languages and differentiated needs and means, the importance of local government in ensuring unity and preservation of peculiar diversities cannot be overemphasized. Since a large percentage of the population is mostly found at the grassroots level, the development of rural areas cannot be over-emphasized, and this has been the concern of every responsible and responsive government.

There is no confusion in respect of the role of local government administration globally and so it is in Nigeria. These roles among others include that of serving as an agent of decentralization, grass root accelerated development, and bridging communication gap and serves as training ground for future leaders (Ajayi, 2000; Gboyega, 1987). The Fourth Schedule of Nigeria's 1999 constitution clearly states the function of local government to include: mobilization of local resources and promoting social and economic improvement and development. Also local government is expected to carry out policies with respect to agriculture, thereby helping to reduce unemployment, therefore local government remains a vital instrument for grassroots development, hence each State of the Nigerian federation can have several local governments established for this purpose.

Borno State has 27 local government areas of which Kwaya-Kusar is one out of the 9 located in southern zone of the state. It was established in the year 1991 with the headquarters in Kwaya town. The people are predominantly agriculturalist and animal's husbandry (Davies, 1956). Although the local government has existed for about 30 years, there is a visible infrastructural deficit and lack of development. For example, the local government area with a geographical size of 732km square and an estimated population of 56500 (wikipedia, 2021) has only one General Hospital and even with that, the General Hospital has few resident doctors and qualified Nurses. Also in the Hospital there is no laboratory with modern equipment, nor are there adequate drugs. This forces the people of the local government to travel to near-by local governments with qualified doctors and good facilities whenever the needs arise. There are some primary health clinics in some of the villages such as Wandali, Milda-pesgo, Billa-Gusi, Yimirdlang, Peta, and within the headquarters, but they are not staffed by qualified personnel. Almost all the health care centers are being controlled by secondary school living school certificate holders or community health workers. Due to this condition many pregnant women and nursing mothers do not go for anti-natal care services, this has hence resulted in increasing infant mortalities.

In the area of education, the local government has a total number of thirty-three (33) registered Primary Schools, four (4) Nomadic School and eighteen (18) Universal Basic Education (UBE) centers with total number of eight hundred and ninety-seven (897) teachers. With that number of primary schools 45% of the teachers are Arabic teachers, 15% are not qualified teachers, and only 40% are qualified (N C E holders with few Degree holders). In most of the primary schools with complete six classes only 3 to 5 teachers teach as there are no enough teachers, coupled with this, most of the pupils receiving lessons under trees as classrooms.

Also in the area of infrastructure, most of the local communities do not have access roads. Most of the people living in the rural areas are predominantly farmers. Hence, agriculture is their major economic activities. Lack of access roads can affect farming activities especially in the movement of farm inputs and outputs such as fertilizer and herbicide. Also, during harvesting period the roads are hardly accessible as some farmers have to cross rivers before they reach their farms. Additionally, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the local government are faced with the challenges of electricity supply and

irregularities; this translates into a high cost production of goods and services. Several of them cannot function at full capacity due to these challenges, resulting in high cost of consumable goods and services produced by these industries. Therefore, this paper intends to look at the role of Kwaya-Kusar local government administration towards rural development as well as the factors militating against the contributions and suggests possible solutions.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Local governments exist to ensure sustainable development of the rural areas thereby bringing governance closer to the rural populace. According to the fourth schedule of the 1999 Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, as amended, the functions of local government area include: inter alia, mobilization of local resources as well as the promotion of social and economic empowerment and development, hence local government is created in order to improve quality of life of the citizenry through the provision of social amenities such as stable electricity supply, standard primary health care, effective and standard primary education, procurement and distribution of farm inputs at a subsidized rates. However, with the state of rural development in Kwaya-Kusar local government one wonders the role played by the local government administration in uplifting the standard of living of the people. Therefore, this paper seeks to look into role of Kwaya-Kusar local government administration towards rural development vis-à-vis the contributions, challenges and way forward.

## 1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research seeks to find answers to the following questions:

- (i) What are the contributions of Kwaya-Kusar local government administration towards rural development?
- (ii) What are the factors militating against the contribution of Kwaya-Kusar local government administration towards rural development?
- (iii) In what ways can Kwaya-Kusar local government administration enhance development in the rural areas?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews related literature in relation to local government administration and rural development.

## 2.0 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

### 2.1 Local Government

Local government in Nigeria according to the 1976 Guidelines is defined as a legally established representative council empowered to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the State and Federal governments in their areas. This Council is also supposed to ensure through devolution of functions, the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions such that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized (FGN, 1976). Also, Lawal (2000), defined local government as the breaking down of a country into smaller units or localities for the purpose of administration in which the inhabitants of the different units or localities concerned play a direct and full role through their elected representatives who exercise power and undertake functions under the general authority of the national or state government.

The United Nations Office for Public Administration cited in Adetoritse (2011) defines local government as the political subdivision of a nation (or in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs, including the

powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. This definition shows that local government is a multi-dimensional concept, including social, economic, geographical, legal, political, and administrative dimensions. The key parameters here are that local governments exist for the purpose of delivering goods and services to the people; and to mobilize local resources and identify specific areas of needs and how they can be solved.

The definition of Local Government by the 1976 Guidelines outlined four key characteristics of Local Government. First, LG officials are elected for a specific period of time. Second, the Local Government unit must have a legal personality distinct from the State and Federal Governments. Thirdly, the Local Government must have specific powers to perform a range of functions, and finally, it must enjoy substantial autonomy. Therefore, Local Government autonomy means that the Local Government is elected at the local level and operates independently of the State and Federal Governments. The characteristics of Local Government autonomy include among others ability to make its own laws, rules and regulations formulate, execute and evaluate its own plans and the right to recruit, promote, develop and discipline its own staff.

## 2.2 Rural Development

The concept of rural development lacks a unified definition as different scholars tend to view it from varying perspectives. Kapur (2021), perceived rural development to involve creating and widening opportunities for individuals to realize full potential through education and share in decision and action which affect their lives. Olojede (1991) view rural development as a means for the provision of basic amenities, infrastructure, improved agricultural productivity and extension services, and employment generation for rural dwellers. According to Ugwu (2000), he defined rural development as effort to balance the pattern and direction of government for the benefit of both the urban and rural sectors and provide technical requirements for speeding up economic growth in the development.

The concept of development does not only entail economic, social and political changes but lay hold on a broad and all-embracing transformation of the rural area. It portrays a totality of societal improvement which is necessary in the local areas. It entails structuring of society in such a way that will improve the quality of lives as well as the satisfaction of the psychological needs of members of any given rural area (Ugwu, 2000). However, there is a consensus among them which is the need for improvement in rural living conditions and standard of living of the rural populace. Rural development is based on the need to balance the pattern and direction of government expenditure to the benefit of the rural populace and provide technical requirements for speeding up economic growth and development in the rural areas. Rural development connotes improvement in rural life socially, economically, environmentally, politically and culturally, as such it involves the mobilization of resources to facilitate rural development.

## 2.3 Role of Local Government in Rural Development

The roles of local government in rural development according to Adedire (2014) are numerous, these include education, transportation, provision of public amenities, water supply etc.

### Education:

Local governments through their local education districts have been responsible for the construction, maintenance and staffing of primary schools in their respective areas. Also, it is responsible for the payment of salaries for teaching and non – teaching staff in primary schools.

### **Agriculture**

Before the discovery of oil in Nigeria in commercial quantity, Agriculture was the main stay of the economy. With agricultural advancement a nation launches itself into one of the leading economies in the world. According to Adedire (2014), any country that is unable to feed itself should not regard itself as developed. The importation of even the stable food for the citizens should be seen as a national disgrace. The interesting thing about agriculture is that it is an end to end profit making venture which engineers rapid development from the grassroots. The distribution of farm implement like fertilizer through the local government encourages farmers and makes it accessible by them. Researchers believe that 70% of the Nigerian labour force is employed in agriculture and they live in the rural areas. In fact, the Local government is a sound base through which food sufficiency could be attained with the aid of the Federal government this would create also employment and curtail rural-urban migration which leads to prostitution, armed robbery, kidnapping and other vices.

### **Infrastructure/ Utilities**

According to Bhatia (2011), an adequate and efficient infrastructure is a pre-condition for a suitable and rapid economic growth and is a major source of external economies. Infrastructure could equally be seen as a barometer to measure development. The local governments could be a channel through which federal government could provide infrastructural development such as housing, estates, and roads construction and transportation schemes. This would go a long way to enhance the status of local governments. Indeed some Local governments have set up mass transit schemes to help transport their staff, and also act as a source of revenue generation for local governments. Local governments also promote the maintenance of good hygienic culture in their domains, through the construction of public toilets, provision of bore holes. They also provide bore holes in the rural areas, maintenance and administration of dispensaries, maternity and health centres. In Nigeria however, it has been lamented that local government are not provided with adequate resources to carry out these activities.

### **Political Participation**

According to Nnamani (2012), Local government provides scope for democracy at the grass -root level, and that if direct democracy can still be practicable; it is only at this level, otherwise democracy at the state or national level. Local government is an excellent ground for creating and training future leaders. The participation of people at the local level in the management of their own affairs, gives them necessary experience to handle bigger affairs later at the state or national. As Nnamani (2012) believes that political participation exposes political issues to both the rulers and the ruled. It also exposes the greatest opportunity to the majority, as well as erect and stability on the system. However, according to Nnamani (2012) there is a disconnection between the people and government because the Federal government has not only crippled the Local government system but has allowed the State governments to make experiments with it thereby misinforming the people on the objectives of the local government. The Local government serves as a centre where the local people come and get informed about the policies of government and their own input towards government programmes.

### **Decentralization and Governance**

Bhatia (2011) emphasized the role of local government as the basis of any true system of democracy. According to him, the role of local government in rural development includes the fact that it acts supplementary to the central government as some functions of to the central government are transferred to the local government. Also, the local government serves as two-way channel of communication between itself and the central government desires and aspirations of the local community are articulated and carried upward to the

state government, and plans and programmes of the state and the central governments flow in the reverse direction. Local government promotes diversity of experience and creative activity through democratic action. Thus, it contributes to national progress through resilience, strength and richness of democracy.

## **2.4 STRATEGIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The strategies for rural development are based upon rural development approaches. These according to Kapur (2021) are as follows:

### **The Multi-Purpose Strategy**

This rural development approach has the main objective of promoting development of material and human resources through the co-operative efforts of individuals and assistance from the state. It is regarded as both an educational and an organizational process. It also aimed at bringing about changes in these administrative practices and procedures, which are barriers to the implementation of desired objectives. The rationale of the approach is to connect all rural life together, including agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, water resources, co-operation, village and small scale industries, health and sanitation, communication, housing and etc. Therefore, it can be stated that development of welfare and livelihoods opportunities is the primary objective of the multi-purpose strategy (Kapur, 2021).

### **Growth Oriented Strategy**

The growth oriented strategy centers on the people. It is believed that, though rural individuals live in conditions of poverty and backwardness, they also possess sharp mind-sets and can make wise decisions. In order to participate in effective decision making processes, they should be given rights and opportunities to do so. The main objective of rural individuals is to enhance their living conditions through employment and income generating opportunities. Therefore, it can be stated that the implementation of opportunities that would promote their growth in an effective and efficient manner is known as growth oriented strategy. For instance, the Agricultural sector is the major area of employment and livelihood opportunities for the rural individuals, therefore implementation of programs and projects in the rural areas regarding agriculture and employment will boost individual growth and development (Kapur, 2021).

### **Target Group Strategy**

This approach advocates that for rural development to be achieved emphasis must be placed on research on the causes, effects and solutions to a particular problem bedeviling the rural populace such as poverty, unemployment, diseases etc. In the target group strategy, a particular group is researched upon for instance small and marginal farmers, as well as local farmers who live in conditions of poverty and backwardness and therefore are unaware of modern and innovative strategies and methods that are considered essential to augment boosting productivity. As such they use traditional farming practices and methods in the production processes rather than technical and scientific methods of production. The target group strategy therefore ties to establish training centers and educational institutions to develop their knowledge and generate awareness in terms of scientific, modern and innovative methods and practices. This is a client-oriented design with the ultimate goal of transferring the responsibilities of planning and development to the clientele themselves (Kapur, 2021).

### **Area Development Strategy**

Under the area development strategy, emphasis is on the development of backward regions. This strategy presumes that growth centers have a geographical spread effect, such that the regions, which are deficient in terms of resources or infrastructure, etc. need to be adequately developed. They are dependent upon the natural environmental

conditions for their survival, therefore, it is vital to implement measures and formulate policies and programs that are focused upon development of local areas, improving the natural environments in order to generate the desired outcomes, it is necessary to allocate resources in an appropriate manner, so development of backward regions can promote well-being of the individuals (Kapur, 2021).

### **Spatial Planning Strategy**

The spatial planning strategy is the strategy that requires implementation of special programs in respective localities, such as production plans, employment programs and supply of basic needs of the rural population. In some of the areas, when there is lack of materials and resources, it would lead to hindrances within the course of achievement of desired objectives. On the other hand, shortage of techniques needs to be analyzed and plans should be efficiently put into operation to promote welfare and goodwill of rural population (Kapur, 2021).

### **Integrated or Holistic Strategy**

Integrated or holistic strategy takes into consideration the perspective that development should be an integrated one. This strategy combines all the features of the previous strategies and is structured to achieve the goals and objectives of growth, welfare and equity, and community participation. This paradigm takes an integrated but comprehensive perspective of major problems that occur within rural communities, including, poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy, aim being ; that at building the capacity of the community to participate in the development processes in partnership with Government. Most poverty reduction programs and Training of rural youths on Employment are intended to follow this standard (Kapur, 2021).

### **Participatory Strategy**

During the past two decades, various new approaches like the top-down planning, planning from below, bottom up planning, micro-level planning and multi-level planning, have been put into operation with the aim of involving the individual in the development process. As the name implies, participatory strategy is concerned with the involvement of individuals in the formulation of strategies and approaches. This encourages their participation in the decision making processes, where the individuals are required to conduct an analysis of alternatives and put into operation the one, which is most meaningful and beneficial. The rural individuals are needs to be enlightens on the various opportunities available in the rural areas which would lead to improvements in their living conditions (Kapur, 2021).

## **2.5 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**The organic theory:** The organic theory as envisaged by Herbert Spencer (ref) society as having three systems corresponding to the sustenance of the whole, the organic theory compares society to an organism and as such describes it as a living structure composed of different which are complementary to one another and function to sustain the whole (Appadorai, 2004). Spencer emphasize that the idea of society is something more than an aggregate of systems without a unifying link as each system is dependent upon another. This therefore provides a gateway towards understanding the prospects of local government finance towards a functional local government administration, which would enhance rural development.

**Developmental theory:** The developmental theory emphasizes how the local government in the developing countries could be effective agents to improve social and economics means of living (Adeyemo, 2005; Dapun et. al, 2010). To this extent the essence of local government especially in the developing countries is to provide social services at the grassroots level and to bring government closer to the people, by giving them opportunity

to decide and participate on their own affairs through their local representatives (Dapun et al., 2010). Dapun et al. (2010) further stated that services such as electricity, health or medical, education, construction of roads, parks good drinking water and abattoir, bring development to a given local government.

## METHODOLOGY

This research work was designed as a survey on the contribution of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government Administration to rural development. The population of the study consists of residents of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government Area which according to the 2006 National Population Census Commission stood at 56,500 people. The sources of data for the study are both Primary and secondary. The primary data includes oral interviews and a structured questionnaire. The study utilizes the Simple Random Sampling (SRS) technique to select a sample size of 100 respondents for the study. The sampling cuts across strata of the population including civil servants, farmers, students and unemployed adults. To ascertain the validity of the instrument, content validity was adopted. The instrument was validated by the researcher's supervisor and two (2) senior lecturers of the faculty of social science, University of Jos, Nigeria to ensure that the instrument represents the entire range of possible items to be tested in the study. The researcher used the Cronbach's alpha correlation matrix to test the reliability of the instrument as ranked by the experts and it indicated an index of 0.81. The data collected from the respondents were analyzed using frequency tables and simple percentages.

## DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This section presents the analysis of data gathered from the field. In all, 100 questionnaires which comprises of structured and open ended questions were distributed to respondents in the sample population which were filled and returned. The responses and interpretation of data are presented in the section below.

### 4.1 BIODATA OF THE RESPONDENTS

**Table 1. Sex of Respondents**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	74	74.0
Female	26	26.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2022

The information in the table above indicates that majority (74.0%) of the respondents were males, while females accounted for 26.0%. This implies that most of the respondents were males who participate actively in the affairs of the local government unlike most female in the area who are house wives.

**Table 2. Marital Status of Respondents**

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	8	8.0
Married	89	89.0
Divorced	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2022

The table 2 above shows that majority of the respondents representing 89.0% are married, 8% singles, and 3% divorced. This implies that most of the respondents were married as such they are responsible members of their communities.



**Table 3. Age of Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 20	9	9.0
21-30	15	15.0
31-40	34	34.0
41-50	30	30.0
50 and above	12	12.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source: Field Survey 2022**

The age distribution of respondents as presented above, shows that majority (34.0%) of respondents were in the age bracket of 31-40. Next is the age bracket of 41-50 representing 30.0%. 12.0% of the respondents were those of the age bracket between 51 and above and the least age bracket is those below 20 years representing 9.0% of the respondents. It implies that most of the respondents were young people of age between 31-40 years and as such they can contribute meaningfully to the development of their localities.

**Table 4. Occupation of Respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	52	52.0
Trader	30	30.0
Civil Servant	12	12.0
Other	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source: Field Survey 2022**

The table above indicates that majority of the respondents (52.0%) were farmers. 30.0% traders, and 12% civil servants, while 6.0% respondents were other occupations. By implication, most of the respondents were farmers who contribute to the growth and development of their localities.

**Table 5. Academic Qualification of Respondents**

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
O level	62	62.0
Diploma/NCE	25	25.0
HND/BSc	10	10.0
MSc and above	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source: Field Survey 2022**

The highest academic qualification most represented in this study is O level representing 62.0% of the respondents; this is followed by Diploma/NCE holders who represent 25.0% of the respondents. 10.0% of the respondents were HND/BSc holders, while 3.0% were holders of MSc and above. This implies that majority of the respondents can read and write and as such they are familiar with what is happening around their vicinities.

**Table 6. Political Wards of Respondents**

Ward	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Kwaya-kusar central	14	14.0
GuwalK.Umar	11	11.0
Wandali (Gondi)	13	13.0
Kurba	7	7.0

Yimirdlalong	12	12.0
Peta	10	10.0
Wada	7	7.0
Kubuku	7	7.0
Billa/Gusi	13	13.0
Wawa	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2022

The table above shows that 14.0% of the respondents were from Kwaya-Kusar central ward. 11.0% from Guwal K. Umar ward, 13.0% from Wandali (Gondi) ward and 7.0% from Kurba ward. 12.0% were from Yimirdlalong ward, 10.0% from Peta ward, 7.0% from Wada ward, 7.0% from Kubuku ward, 13.0% from Billa/Gusi ward, while 6.0% from Wawa ward. The above distribution indicates that greater percentage of the respondents were living in the rural areas as such they are familiar with the nature and level of their development.

## 4.2 SECTION B: ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

### Research question one

**What are the contributions of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government towards infrastructural development in rural areas?**

**Table 7. Responses on the contributions of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government towards infrastructural development in rural areas**

Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Local government provides pipe borne to my community.	34(34%)	34(34%)	25(25%)	7(7%)	100(100%)
Primary Health Care (PHC) was constructed by the Local government in my ward.	11(11%)	20(20%)	51(51%)	18(18%)	100(100%)
Local roads were constructed across our communities by the Local government.	31(31%)	51(51%)	14(14%)	4(4%)	100(100%)
New primary schools were established and old ones were renovated by the local government in my ward.	20(20%)	28(28%)	37(37%)	15(15%)	100(100%)
Local government provides market place to my community.	32(32%)	35(35%)	19(19%)	14(14%)	100(100%)

Source: Field Survey 2022

The table above shows that 68% of the respondents do not think that Kwaya-Kusar Local Government has provided their communities with pipe borne water, while 32% think otherwise. However most (69%) agreed that PHC have been constructed in their localities, while 31% disagreed. 82% of the respondents indicate that local roads were constructed in their communities, while 18.0% thought otherwise. The data also shows an almost equal number of respondents agreeing and disagreeing that primary schools were built or renovated in their localities (52%:48% respectively). While 67.0% indicated the local government has not provided market place, while 33.0% indicated so.

### Research question two

**What are the major factors militating against the contribution of local government administration towards rural development?**

**Table 8. Factors militating against the contribution of local government administration towards rural development.****Source: Field Survey 2022**

Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Inadequate finance.	5(5%)	7(7%)	52(52%)	36(36%)	100(100%)
Corruption	9(9%)	19(19%)	55(55%)	17(17%)	100(100%)
Lack of rural participation	9(9%)	17(17%)	53(53%)	21(21%)	100(100%)
Lack of maintenance culture by the local government administration	12(12%)	25(25%)	43(43%)	20(20%)	100(100%)

From the table above the challenges confronting Kwaya-Kusar Local Government are inadequate finance (88%), low rural participation (74%), corruption (72%) and lack of maintenance culture (63%).

**Table 9. Other challenges that hamper the responsibility of Kwaya-kusar local government towards the development of its rural area.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Security challenges by Boko Haram terrorists	10	10.0
Lack of local government autonomy	45	45.0
Unwillingness to pay tax by residents	4	4.0
Political interference	36	36.0
Lack of political opposition	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source: Field Survey 2022**

Table 9 shows other challenges confronting the local government in order of importance, these include lack of autonomy of the local government (45%), political interference (36%), and security challenges (10%). Other minor challenges are lack of political opposition (5%) and unwillingness to pay tax (4%).

### Research question three

**What are the ways in which Kwaya-Kusar local government can enhance development**

in rural areas?

**Table 10. Respondents' suggestion on ways Kwaya-Kusar local government can enhance development in rural areas.**

Source: Field Survey 2022

From the table respondents suggested Kwaya-Kusar local government can enhance

Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Internal and external revenue sources should be enhanced.	2(2%)	20(20%)	49(49%)	29(29%)	100(100%)
Local government should be more people-centred through collaboration with communities to facilitate the process of rural development.	3(3%)	9(9%)	44(44%)	44(44%)	100(100%)
Granting autonomy to local government will improve rural development.	6(6%)	19(19%)	53(53%)	22(22%)	100(100%)
Judicious utilisation of resources by the local government will facilitate rural development.	6(6%)	19(19%)	53(53%)	22(22%)	100(100%)
Collaboration between the local government, institutions and groups can facilitate the attainment of the local government objectives.	6(6%)	17(17%)	59(59%)	18(18%)	100(100%)

development in rural areas by booting internal and external revenue sources (78%), by being more people-centred (88%), by granting autonomy (75%), through judicious utilisation of resources (75%), and through collaboration with local institutions and groups (77%).

**Table 11. Other recommendations by respondents for enhanced development in Kwaya-Kusar Local Government**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Provide quality education to the people	10	10.0
Provide loan for Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs)	25	25.0
Provide agricultural resources to farmers	20	20.0
Create employment opportunities for the youths	35	35.0
Provide adequate security to the people	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 11 shows other ways in which Kwaya-Kusar local government can enhance development in rural areas, these include Provision of quality education (10%), Provision of loan for Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs) (25%), Provision of agricultural resources to farmers (20%), Creation of employment opportunities (35%) and Provision of adequate security (10%).

#### 4.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

##### 4.3.1 Contribution of Kwaya-Kusar local government towards infrastructural development in rural areas

The contribution of Kwaya-Kusar local government towards infrastructural development in rural areas are mainly in the areas discussed below:

##### Pipe borne Water

Table 7 indicated that majority of the respondents representing 68.0% were not in agreement with the fact that the local government provides pipe borne to their

communities. Therefore, it means that Kwaya-Kusar local government administration has done a little in the provision of pipe borne water in its communities. In Kwaya-Kusar local government there are so many communities without portable drinking water. People living in these communities use stream water and their animals which make the water contaminated and unsafe for human use. Bhatia (2011) found that local government drill boreholes and construct cement wells in the rural areas in an effort to make water available to the rural dwellers.

### **Primary Health Care (PHC)**

Table 7 showed that majority of the respondents representing 69.0% agreed that a Primary Health Care (PHC) which were constructed by the Local Kwaya-Kusar Local government administration in their wards. At least, a Primary Health Care (PHC) was constructed by the local government administration in their wards, even these health centres are poorly staffed and equipped. Implicitly the people do not actually derive satisfactory benefits from the existence of the PHC centres. Adedire (2014) asserts that the local government is saddled with the responsibility of providing, maintaining and administration of dispensaries, maternity, and health centres in the rural areas for the betterment of the rural dwellers.

### **Construction of Rural Roads**

The findings in Table 7 revealed that majority of the respondents representing 82.0% disagreed with the fact that local roads were constructed in their communities by the Kwaya-Kusar local government administration. The situation is largely attributed to lack of funds as roads construction requires huge resources. Most of the communities do not have rural roads and even those that have them were in a deplorable state. Adedire (2014) view that for rural dwellers to have access to infrastructures not available in their communities such as market place, health, and education rural roads is necessary.

### **Educational Infrastructure**

The findings of the study in Table 7 indicate that more respondents representing 52.0% agreed that new primary schools were either established or old ones renovated by the Kwaya-Kusar local government administration in their localities. 48% of the respondents however indicated contrary. This shows that many other communities have not benefited either from the construction of primary schools or renovation of old ones in the period covered by the study. Consequently, many people living in those communities will find it difficult to read and write. Adedire (2014) asserts that Local governments through their local education districts have been responsible for the construction, maintenance and staffing of primary schools in their respective areas.

### **Provision of Market Place**

The findings of the study in Table 7 showed that majority of the respondents representing 67.0% disagreed with the fact that Kwaya-Kusar Local government administration provide market place to their communities. This shows that many people cannot engage in buying and selling to earn a living and to satisfy other peoples' needs and wants. Hamza and Yahaya (2019) found that provision of market place in the rural areas is a panacea to the economic development of the rural dwellers.

### **4.3.2 Factors Militating against the Contribution of Kwaya-Kusar Local Government administration towards rural development**

The section below discusses challenges militating against the contribution of Kwaya-Kusar local government administration towards rural development was considered in the study, these include:

#### **Inadequate Finance**

The findings of the study in table 8 revealed that the majority of the respondents representing 88.0% agreed with the fact that inadequate finance affects the contribution of the local government administration to rural development. The result of the findings corroborates with that of Imam (1996) who posits that inadequate finance is one of the notorious problems facing local government administration in Nigeria. Inadequate funds affect the functions of local government through in terms of ability to provide basic amenities to rural populace, such as water, roads, schools etc. The financial inadequacy is due to lack of proper functional accounting and auditing system, internal control mechanisms, misappropriation, and corruption. Bhatia (2011) opined that in Nigeria however, it has been lamented that local government are not provided with adequate resources to carry it constitutional responsibilities such as provision of social amenities to the local populace. In addition, Adedire (2014) is of the view that some of the rural development programs are bogus without a clear defined sources of funding.

### **Corruption**

The findings of the study in table 8 indicated that majority of the respondents representing 72.0% agreed with the fact that corruption is a major challenge militating against the contribution of local government administration to rural development. Corruption has resulted to the under development of many rural areas in Kwaya-Kusar local government in the sense that the resources that would be channelled for the provision of basic social amenities would be siphoned or misappropriated. Adedire (2014) opined that corruption poses a very big threat to rural development; there is lack of integrity, accountability, and transparency on the part of people who are supposed to implement development projects in the rural areas.

### **Lack of Rural Participation**

The findings of the study in table 8 showed that majority of the respondents representing 74.0% agreed with the fact that lack of rural participation by rural dwellers is a hindrance to local government efforts towards rural development. Lack of rural participation is a situation where by people in the rural areas are not given the opportunity by the authorities to participate in the affairs that concern their lives and development. The rural dwellers can participate through consultation, meetings and representation. Adedire (2014) opined that participation of local people in decision-making and administration of the local authority is important and that is what gives it the characteristic of self-government.

### **Lack of Maintenance Culture**

The findings of the study in table 8 revealed that the majority of the respondents representing 73.0% agreed with the fact that lack of maintenance culture by the local government administration affects its contribution towards rural development. This implies a situation where by the rural roads, schools and other infrastructures built by the local government are not properly supervised and maintained from time to time. This will make them to be in a deplorable state within a short period of time there by making them nonfunctional.

Other challenges faced by the local government administration include:

### **Security challenges**

Table 9 shows that 10% agreed that security challenges especially those posed by Boko Haram is one of the challenges faced by the local government administration. Boko Haram terrorists has killed so many innocent people and burnt several properties which resulted to migration of many destitute. This affected Kwaya-Kusar local government administration in the sense that people cannot farm, pay tax and government offices, schools etc were forced to shut down. Enders & Sandler (2006) opined that terrorism like Boko Haram destroys, or damage rural infrastructures such as roads, bridges, electricity, among others, which are essential component of rural development. Also, Mohammed

and Asha (2024) submits that Boko Haram insurgency have led to the loss of lives and properties in rural areas of Borno State.

### **Lack of Local Government Autonomy**

Table 9 above shows that 45% of the respondents agreed that lack of autonomy is one of the challenges faced by the local government administration. Lack of autonomy is a situation where by the local government is not independent in running its own affairs rather it is made to depend on other tiers of government such as the state and federal government for approval or support on certain issues. This has affected the functions of the Kwaya-Kusar local government administration in terms of capital expenditure where by approval must be sorted before executing any capital project from the state government etc. The State-Local Governments Joint Account is another factor that made Kwaya-Kusar local government administration dependent on state government. This is why new capital projects for rural development are not visible in most localities in Kwaya-Kusar local government. Hamza and Yahaya (2019) found that granting full autonomy to local government will guarantee the and enhance rural development.

### **Unwillingness to Pay Tax by Residents**

As shown in table 9, 4% of the respondents agreed that unwillingness to pay tax by residents is one of the challenges faced by the local government administration. The residents of the Kwaya-Kusar local government do not want to pay tax. The implication of this is that the local government cannot have enough funds to execute projects and perform other functions for the benefits of the rural populace.

### **Political interference**

Table 9 shows that 36% of the respondents think that political interference is one of the challenges faced by the local government administration. Political interference is hindering the development of Kwaya-Kusar local government. The local government is run based on political consideration not merit for instance in the area of recruitment where by preferences are given to party affiliation rather than competency and merit. The affect is that quacks will fill the local government service instead of the qualified ones which will lead to unproductivity.

### **Lack of Political Opposition**

The data in table 9 depicts that 5% of the respondents attests that lack of political opposition is one of the challenges faced by the local government administration. Political opposition in Kwaya-Kusar local government is not guaranteed. This is because any form opposition is suppressed by either victimization or manhunt. This is affecting the local government because strong opposition will serve as a watch dog and help in checking the powers and excesses of the administrators. Nnamani & Anikwe (2013) opined that opposition is the fundamental bases for the development of democracy, as it recognizes rights for political and social actors to publicly criticize and challenge the government in its actions and policies.

### **CONCLUSION**

Local governments are potentially better placed than the state or federal government to provide necessary social services such as basic education, roads, water supply, public utilities and other facilities for well-being of the rural populace. To achieve these goals, local government has both federal allocation and internally generated revenue, however, Kwaya-Kusar local government has not contributed much towards rural development of its communities especially with regards to rural roads, education infrastructure, market place, mobilization for political participation, organizing training for youth, provision of agricultural resources etc. Hence rural areas in the local government remain underdeveloped. Tackling the factors militating against local government contribution towards rural development with a strong political will is the way forward for rural areas to be developed in Kwaya-Kusar local government.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

### Finances

Since finance is the life wire of local government administration, Kwaya-Kusar local government council should find more ways of generating internal revenue for development of its areas. In addition, the local government should ensure proper management of the federal allocation. To generate more internal revenue, all tax payers should be encouraged to pay and be willing to do so promptly. The federal allocation can be adequately managed by strengthening internal control mechanisms, functional accounting and auditing system and anti-corruption measures. The tax payers can be compelled to pay by going house to house or staying at strategic location such as market places, banks, mosques, churches for collection or showing evidence of payment and defaulters punished according to the law.

### Autonomy

There should be constitutional amendment of the 1999 constitution to curtail the excessive interference in the local government affairs by the state government in order to enhance a more effective local government administration that is more accountable and responsive to the people of its locality. This is supported by 75% of the respondents.

### Employment Generation

The local government's administration should employ its educated and qualified youths in its service. Also, it should collaborate with state and federal government to provide job opportunities for its youths. More so, empowering the youths with various skills can help to reduce unemployment in the local government.

### Agricultural Development

The local government administration should encourage agricultural activities by subsidizing agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, tractors, and pesticides. It should employ more agricultural extension officers to guide farmers on farming activities, used of improved varieties of seedling as well as finding a better marketing system for them.

### Security

Since there are security threats by Boko Haram activities and majority of the residents in Kwaya-Kusar are farmers, the local government should ensure adequate security measures are put in place to protect the farmers in farmlands as well as other forms of conflict among the communities of the area. Mohammed and Asha (2024) suggested that more synergy and collaboration as well as intelligent sharing among security agencies is needed to tackle Boko Haram insurgency.

### Participation of Rural Dwellers:

Majority of the rural dwellers should be educated and be encouraged to participate in party politics so as to drive benefits from the government of the day and winning party.

### Fight against Corruption:

The local government official should deal decisively with any staff of the local government found wanting or corrupt. Similarly, the establishment of the unit of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to monitor the income and expenditures of the local government and punish those found wanting of corruption in the local government.

Other recommended ways in which Kwaya-Kusar local government administration can enhance rural development include: Provision of quality education to the people, provision of loan for Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs), provision of agricultural resources and input to farmers, and providing employment opportunities for the youths.

## SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES



The following are suggestion for further studies on the topic under study:

1. Further study should be carried out on the impact of local government autonomy on rural development, because the study identified lack of autonomy as one of the major challenges affecting local government contribution in development of its rural communities.
2. A similar study could be conducted on the effect of corruption on rural development. As corruption was found to be a challenging factor to local government administration.
3. The study focused only on Kwaya-Kusar local government in Borno state. Therefore, there is need for further studies on other local governments of the state as well as to other 774 local governments of the federation to have holistic background and knowledge of the research topic because the research did not cover everything therein that needs to be attended to.

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