

INFRASTRUCTURE AS A BANE TO RURAL – URBAN MIGRATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN NIGERIA

Vincent E. Unegbu

*Information Resources Management Department, Babcock Business School
Babcock University, PMB 21244, Ikeja Lagos, NIGERIA*

Abstract

Exodus of indigenes from their place of birth to the cities thereby congesting the cities led to this research. Nigeria is an agrarian society where subsistence farming is the main sustenance of the citizens, but lack of many social amenities supposed to be provided by the government induced the villagers to migrate to the cities. This research surveyed the conditions that would warrant the citizens to stay in their villages and make a living. Thirteen out of 27 local governments in Imo State were used as the case study. Out of a target population of 959, 213 one thousand eight hundred and forty (1840) were surveyed with the use of questionnaire. Response rate was 95%. Data collected were analysed using SPSS package and represented in discrete figures, percentages, tables and figures. Almost half of the respondents live outside their local governments. The citizens were aware that good infrastructure would make them stay and work from their homes. Also they identified hospitals, good roads, police stations, churches, and companies/factories as the major infrastructure that would induce them to stay and establish in their villages. It is therefore recommended that those infrastructures should be provided and where available, should be well maintained.

Keywords: Infrastructure, Development, Emigration and Immigration, Villages, Local government areas.

INTRODUCTION

International emigration has its root on uneven development of countries which leads to exodus of people from their countries of less opportunity to another for a better life. This is on a county-wide and international basis. Exodus of citizens from their villages or rural areas to the cities is a great concern also to the government where this occurs. Human beings are the greatest agent of development so their presence in any locality is an indication of potential development. People should be seen in diverse parts of a country for even development of that country.

Many factors account for exodus of people from the rural areas to the cities. Infrastructure is one of them, and the most noticeable reason for that. So, to ensure that citizens stay in the villages, there must be the provision of adequate social infrastructure (Oviasuyi, Idada, and Isiraojie 2010). Transportation infrastructure helps move people and goods to markets, improves business competitiveness, and allows the economy to grow and prosper. Other public infrastructure, such as cultural and recreational facilities, clean drinking water systems, and health facilities, improve public health and enhance the quality of life (Godwin 2008; World Bank 1984).

Generally, infrastructure which includes, but not limited to housing, roads, bridges, schools, markets, health facilities, electricity, water treatment, parks, and other facilities enumerated in Nigerian constitution as the duties of Local Governments (Constitution FRN, 1999) are effective means to boost economic activities and create employment for the unemployed, especially, the youths. The Western World understands this and it is one of the major reasons “why the first phase of Canada’s Economic Action Plan is providing close to \$15 billion to modernize a broad range of infrastructure including our roads, bridges, public transit, parks and water treatment facilities” among others in Canada in 2010 – 2011 fiscal year (Canada 2011). Provision of infrastructure in many local government areas in Nigeria is treated with levity. The intention of the Federal Government in creation of Local Governments is to develop the rural areas (Oviasuyi, Idada and Isiraojie, (2010); Nigerian 1979 Consitution; Agbakoba and Ogbonna (2004). Local governments are government of the rural dwellers, government of the grassroots.

Human beings prefer where they could enjoy their life by having access to the modern social and infrastructural amenities. Creation of local government areas was premised on this and this was the more reason why local governments receive allocations from the Federation Account. Secondly, development of rural communities with its anticipated employment opportunities will empower the citizens to be independent. Villages are adversely affected by mass exodus of rural dwellers to the cities where there are better amenities conducive for joyful existence. Nigeria’s Core Welfare Indicators and youth employment statistics (NBS 2008) showed a pitiful condition for Nigerians. National Bureau of Statistics, using a bloc of the 6 Zones of Nigeria, pictured the percentage of youth unemployment in Nigeria as very high. (Nigeria Core Welfare Indicators, 2006; Source: National Bureau of Statistics – Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey). The South East was second to the South-South zone in high youth unemployment. No wonder the rate of crime in these zones were too high. Also according to the National Bureau of Statistics, Imo State is the 8th in Nigeria among the 36 States of Nigeria in unemployment rate in rural areas (NBS, 2008 P. 267). This is why Imo State is used as a case study.

Imo State is one of the Nigeria’s 774 local governments. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, where Imo State belongs, occupies an area of 923, 769 square kilometres. Water covers a large mass of 13,879 sq. km. leaving only 909, 890 sq. km. of arable and habitable land area (NBS 2008). Imo State occupies 5,530 sq. km. of the land mass of Nigeria. The inhabitants of Imo State are the Igbos whose native language is Igbo, while English is their official language of transaction and documentation. Imo State’s indigenes are predominantly Christians. It was created on February 3, 1976 out from the old East Central State (when Nigeria was made up of only 12 States). In 1991 Abia State was carved out of Imo State leaving Imo State then with a population of 2, 485, 635 and now 3, 934, 899 as at the year 2006. As at 2011 Imo State was made up of 27 Local Government Areas shared among three Senatorial zones namely Owerri Senatorial Zone made up of nine local governments; Okigwe Senatorial Zone made up of six local governments; and Orlu Senatorial Zone made up of twelve local governments as shown below.

THE 27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS AND THEIR SENATORIAL ZONES

OWERRI Senatorial Zone: This is made up of nine local governments namely: Owerri Municipal, Owerri West, Owerri North, Ikeduru, Mbaitoli, Ngor Okpala, Aboh Mbaize, Ahiazu Mbaize, and Ezenihitte Mbaize

OKIGWE Senatorial Zone: This is made up of six local governments namely: Okigwe, Onuimo, Ihitte Uboma, Obowo, Isiala Mbano, and Ehime Mbano

ORLU Senatorial Zone: This senatorial zone is made up of 12 local governments thus: Orlu, Orsu, Isu, Oru West, Oru East, Njaba, Ideato North, Ideato South, Oguta, Nkwere, Ohaji/Egbema, and Nwangele

The State has abundant mineral resources which include crude oil, fine sand, limestone and natural gas, all in commercial quantities.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has a systematic way of funding the local governments. Local Governments get its resources from different sources. A formula is used in sharing this revenue among: Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, Special Grants Account or Special Funds; and different percentages were affixed dependent on the commission that recommended it. (Adesina 1998; Danjuma 1996; Omitola 2005). Later on On-shore and Off-shore oil royalties came on board and a progressive reduction on the “principle of derivation and the strengthening of the principles of needs and population” (Omitola p. 151). Imo State, being an “oil producing State” is assumed to be receiving a handful of revenue from the allocation formula which should reflect in infrastructure and employment of the citizens. This should portend that many school leavers in Imo State should not be looking for jobs.

Even distribution of jobs or enabling environment for independent employment means that citizens could stay in any part of the country and be gainfully employed. Is this applicable in Imo State, Nigeria? Are the citizens aware of the employment potentials in the provision of infrastructure?

Statement of the Problem

Rate of development seem not to be proportionate to the rumoured allocations made to the local governments. The publics’ speculation is that funds allocated to the local government areas had either been misappropriated or embezzled. Communities suffered lack of amenities for good living such as electricity, good water supply, good road networks and other developmental infrastructures. Indigenes were disgusted with their condition of living. The citizens leave their villages for greener pastures. The artisans leave their homes for the cities. The rural areas are depopulated while the cities are overpopulated. The able-bodied men and women who are energetic and who could stay in their villages to produce food for their aged parents are no more at home.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to investigate the citizens’ knowledge of self employment potentials embedded in the provision of social infrastructures.

The specific objectives were to:

1. Survey the local dwellers’ knowledge of the amenities that would stop them from emigration to the cities.

2. Identify the infrastructures that will compel the citizens to stay and establish in their homes.
3. Rate the adequacy of infrastructures in their local government areas.

Significance of the Study

Nigeria, with a staggering population of between 140 and 150 million, is the largest country in Africa (Osuji, 2011). It is the 10th largest population in the world. With its high growth rate, Nigeria is projected to be ranked 4th highest population in the world by the year 2050 (Standard 9). This is partly because her rate of natural increase as at 1999 was 3%, significantly higher than that of the world which was 1.5% and that of Africa which was 2.6%. High population increase rate without equivalent increase in employment portends a high societal danger. Therefore, there is high need to create employment for Nigerian's able bodied citizens. Without work, idle hands will be used by the devil to foment trouble in the camouflage of finding food to eat. This research hoped to highlight ways the local governments could help to generate employment for its jobless citizens to reduce crime rate as a result of unemployment and mass exodus of citizens from the villages to the cities resulting in overcrowding with its hazards.

Resources to create jobs are feasible but its provision and efficient and effective utilization is missing (Danjuma 1996, Aibieyi 2005). Federal government of Nigeria allocates reasonable funds to each of the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria (Orewa 1991). In addition, there are myriads of ways that the local governments generate revenue internally. Judicious utilization of the funds could translate to provision of jobs to the citizens. The reverse is the case in Imo State. Creating awareness to the citizens of the need to utilize the resources meant for the citizens for the citizens is pertinent. Therefore this research hopes to remind the LG administrators of the need to use the resources for the development of the LGs by providing infrastructure to enhance employment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review for this research was focused on the measurement of development, the constituents of development or indicators of development; and the impediment to development. Development is an encompassing term that involves all aspects of life. Education, good health, social involvement, economic growth and even cultural revival are parts of development. But this research limits itself to infrastructure as a catalyst to development and as a stop watch for exodus.

Functions of the Local Government Council

According to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the government has a lot of responsibilities for its citizens which are clearly listed in the Fourth Schedule (FRN Constitution, 1999, Fourth Schedule). Many of the functions are on revenue generation from the citizens in form of taxes, rates, and licenses. The local governments should in return provide infrastructures for the citizens especially those infrastructures that will enable them to remain and be employed in their respective local governments. The federal government does not rely solely on the local governments' internal revenue collection for the development of the local

governments; it gives them allocations on monthly basis. How has the allocations been used? Are their tangible proofs of judicious utilization of the allocations?

These sources are summarized into four revenue heads as (1) Tenement Rates/Property Rates (2) Local licences, Fines and Fees (3) Earning from Commercial Undertakings and Rent on Properties, and (4) Interest Payment, Dividends and Miscellaneous. All these revenue generation avenues are given backing by both 1979 and 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (See Fourth Schedule s.1. (J); some State's Edicts ; and some Revenue Allocation Commissions and Decrees, for example, Decree No. 13 (1970), Decree No. 6 (1975), Aboyade Committee (1977), Okigbo Commission (1980), Revenue Allocation Act (1981), Revenue Allocation Amendment Decree (1984), and Decree No. 49 (1989) which gave birth to National Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, (Hassan 2001: 44). Information on effective utilization of these funds and the impact on the citizens of the local governments were of concern to this research. This research hoped to investigate the relationship between this and the development of both the citizens and the local governments.

Concept of Development

Development is conceptualized as the qualitative improvement in the living standard of the majority of the people through the provision of economic and social infrastructures like industries, employment, water, electricity, health facilities, good roads, etc. (Okereke, 2003: 1)

The above quotation from the book *Development Administration in Nigeria: Issues and Strategies* edited by O. Oyari Okereke listed some of the most development indicators which are the concern of the Third World countries to improve their societies. Development could also be seen as "the qualitative improvement of the living standard of members of the society" (Okereke 2003 p. 10) which is measured by such indicators as literacy rate, rate of employment, the distribution of income, availability of good drinking water, good roads, regular supply of electricity, decent housing, medical facilities, and not only having them but also having access to them. To effectively do this, the public sector or the public service represented by the local government functionaries is the instrument available to the States and the nation to achieve the purpose. A lot of policies, strategies, and programmes were employed to do this mostly on agriculture since Nigeria is an agrarian economy except recently when Nigeria suddenly becomes an oil exporter (Okereke 2003, Obinozie 2003, Enemuo 2002). Few examples are Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), The River Basin Development Programme (RBDP), The Green Revolution

Infrastructure, an encompassing word for many development instruments, was a key point stressed by Ezekwesili as an inhibiting factor to African growth or development in an interview she granted to Atser Godwin (2008). The growth of Africa, she ascertained, depended on how we are able to tackle the issue of infrastructure gap, whether in terms of feeder roads, because a lot of African population is agrarian, or power supply to boost mechanisation among others.

Rural Urban Migration

There are various reasons for leaving the rural areas for the cities. Some people by choice prefer the rural areas. "Currently, unforeseen circumstances such as foreclosure and job loss, coupled with the continuing decay of rural infrastructure projects in a struggling economy, are causing migration to urban areas" (Tefft, 2012: 1). It could be decayed infrastructure in the developed areas but lack of it in the developing countries. Other conditions for rural-urban migration are adverse rural environmental and economic conditions; lack of excitement in the rural areas, the youths get in touch with the urban dwellers through the use of social networks, and they are lured to cross over; ease of life because of available amenities like public transportation, convenient access to healthcare facilities and stone throw grocery stores; and social settings among others. Sibtain (2010) listed three factors for migration as hatred for agricultural jobs, need for education which may not be available in the rural areas and difference in wage earnings. Wiki (2012) grouped the factors into two called Push and Pull factors. Push factors are the "conditions that drive people to leave their homes", such forces as scarcity of land in ones home country, political and/or religious persecution, and poverty. The Pull factors are the conditions that attract people to a new area such as religious and political freedom, and hope for a new life

METHODOLOGY

Survey design was employed in this research because it is best used to find "out the opinion of a group of people towards a particular issue at a particular time" (Banji 2007: 100). Since the aim of this research was to seek the opinion of the citizens concerning the provision of infrastructure to enhance employment and to induce to stay and work from their locality, human beings are involved, therefore survey research design was more appropriate. (Uhegbu, 2004).

Multistage sampling was used to select 13 local governments out of 27 local governments in Imo State. These local governments are distributed in three senatorial zones of Okigwe (6 LGAs), Orlu (12 LGAs), and Owerri (9 LGAs). Since the zones did not have equal numbers of local governments, proportionate numbers were used, that is, approximately half of the numbers of local governments in each zone were used. This was purposively done in order to include the local governments in the outskirts of the cities (in the rural areas). Statistics on the population of these 13 Local Government Areas stood at One Million Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand One Hundred and Forty Nine (1, 950, 149) as of 2006 census figure which was the latest as at when this research was carried out. Probability Sampling Methods was applied using simple random sampling and cluster sampling. All the population could not be used because the target group were employable citizens of between the ages 20 to 64 whether employed or not from all works of life. The 13 purposively selected local government areas have different numbers of people, so a proportionate number, determined by proportionate sample size representing the population of the selected local government areas was used. There was no census figure on the government employable ages of 20 – 64 so this age group was worked out using statistical and mathematical methods.

Relatively large numbers of units are needed for precision in survey research. As sample size increases the magnitude of sampling errors decreases and the accuracy of generalization becomes

high. However, it has been a controversial issue on deciding the proportional number to adopt for a given population. Thomas (2004: 108) has this to say, “In my experience, samples of around 200 cases usually give sufficient scope for analysis of survey data”. Others suggest 100 or even 30 or higher ones of 1, 000 and 5, 000 (Bailey, 1994: 97; Hoinville et al, 1978 p.61). Thomas (2004) citing de Vaus 1990: 73 and Marshall (1998: 576) said that many survey organizations do not use more than 2, 000 – 2, 500 cases and that those numbers “are likely to be beyond the reach of the research student. A general rule of thumb is ‘As few as you must, as many as you can’”. However, in a finite population Krejcie and Morgan (1970) recommended 384 samples for a population of 200, 000. What proportion of the 959, 213 citizens of the 13 selected local government areas will be used? Proportionate random sampling was used to select the finite number to be used. Using Krejcie and Morgan’s recommendation of 384 samples for a population of 200, 000; this research was supposed to make use of 1, 841 but for easy calculation one figure was dropped leaving 1, 840 as the figure sampled. This 1, 840 people were proportionately and randomly selected from the 13 local government areas of Imo State as under listed.

Uzuagulu’s statistical formula adopted in Uhegbu’s thesis (2004: 102) was adopted to arrive at the formula used in selecting the population size for each of the 13 local governments.

The formula is expressed as:
$$\frac{n \times p}{N \times 1}$$

Where in this paper n = Total Sample Size = 1, 840; N = Total Number of Population to Sample = 959, 213; and P = Total Number of Population to be sampled in each of the 13 LGs. So to get the sample size for Aboh Mbaise, the mathematical application becomes:

$$\frac{1\,840 \times 98,326}{959,213 \times 1}$$

$$= 189 \text{ Approx.}$$

This formula was applied to all the 13 local governments to arrive at 1840 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Selected Proportion of Employable Citizens Surveyed from the 13 LGAs

Local Govt. Area	Total Population Of the LGA	Worked Out Pop. No. To be Used (50%)	Finite No. Of Pop. To be Surveyed
Aboh Mbaise	196, 652	98, 326	189
Ahiazu Mbaise	170, 902	85, 451	164
Ehime Mbano	130, 931	65, 465	126
Ezinihitte Mbaise	165, 593	82, 796	159

Ideato North	158, 406	79, 203	152
Ideato South	159, 879	79, 939	153
Isiala Mbano	198, 736	99, 368	190
Owerri Municipal	127, 213	63, 606	122
Nkwere	80, 152	40, 076	77
Obowu	118, 114	59, 057	113
Ohaji/Egbema	182, 538	91, 269	175
Oru East	111, 822	55, 911	107
Oru West	117, 492	58, 746	113

GRAND TOTAL: **1840**

The questionnaire titled “Questionnaire on Local Government’s Financial Information Management and Citizenry Empowerment” was the instrument applied in this research. It was administered with the help of six trained research assistants.

Method of Data Analysis

Out of the 1840 copies of questionnaire distributed to all the groups of respondents, 1785 were retrieved while 55 questionnaires could not be retrieved. Data collected from each local government area was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) analytical package suitable for the type of data collected. Descriptive statistic was used in analysing the data collected. In the final analysis, a generalization was deduced for the entire population as opposed to just the sample size used. Analytical methods employed were percentages, tables, and graphs. These were used to elucidate the data collected as to give a graphic analysis which gave a mnemonic and lasting impression on the findings.

Data Presentation, Analyses and Discussion

The results presented in the tables have also been represented in frequencies and percentages, as well as in graphs, for easy understanding.

The demographic characteristics of the respondents of this research were displayed on Table 2.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Characteristics		Frequency (N=1785)	Percentage (100%)
Gender	Male	851	47.7
	Female	893	50.0

	NA**	41	2.3
Marital status	Married	1150	64.4
	Single	620	34.7
	NA**	15	0.8
Age (years)	15-20	19	1.1
	21-30	444	24.9
	31-40	767	43.0
	41-50	444	24.9
	51-64	100	5.6
	Above 64	0	0.0
	NA**	11	0.6
Highest Qualification	Primary Six	271	15.2
	JSS 1-3	163	9.1
	SSCE/GCE	680	38.1
	TCII/ OND/NCE	212	11.9
	HND/B.A./B.Sc.	430	24.1
	M.A./M.Sc.	16	1.0
	PhD	1	0.06
	NA	12	0.7

** Note: NA = Not available, No indication of choice answer.

Occupational Distribution of Respondents

Commercial motorcyclists and tri-cyclists (popularly known as Okada riders) made up 12% (217) of the respondents; 291 (16.3%) Hairdressers; 559 (31.3%) Tailors; 542 (30.4) Teachers; 17 (1.0%) Traders, 108 (6.1%) Unemployed citizens; and 8 (0.4%) respondents did not indicate their occupations; the remaining 2.5% came from nurses, secretaries, accountants, civil servants, motor drivers, etc.

Respondents' Occupational and Residence Issues

Table 3: Responses on work and residence issues

S/N	Questions	Frequencies and percentages N=1785 (100%)		
		Yes	No	NA
1	Are you from this Local Government?	1362 (76.3)	419 (23.5)	5 (0.3)
2	Do you like your present work/job?	1329 (74.4)	444 (24.9)	13 (0.7)
3	Do you wish to change your work/job?	841 (47.1)	928 (52.0)	17 (1.0)
4	Do you go to work from your home/village?	1014 (56.8)	761 (42.6)	11 (0.6)
5	*Are you a tenant?	1053 (59.0)	728 (40.8)	5 (0.3)
6	*Did you rent a house?	904 (50.6)	870 (48.8)	12 (0.7)

Note: NA means “not available”

*** A “tenant” in this stance is somebody living in another person’s residence squatting without paying. One who rented a room or a house pays for it.**

From Table 3, 1362 (76.3%) of the respondents were from the local governments they resided in as at the time of contact. 419 (23.5%) of them hailed from other local government areas. The remaining 5 (0.3%) did not indicate whether they were from the local government of contact or not. While 1329 (74.4%) of the respondents liked their current jobs as at the time of contact, 444 (24.9%) did not. 13 (0.7%) of the respondents did not indicate their preferences concerning their current jobs. Moreso, 841 (47.1%) of the respondents wished to change their current jobs. 928 (52.0%) would like to retain their current jobs. 17 (1.0%) did not indicate their wishes about change of their jobs. 1014 (56.8%) of the respondents went to work from their home or village, while 761 (42.6%) did not go to work from their home village. The remaining 11 (0.6%) did not give any indication on this issue. Finally, while 904 (50.6%) of the respondents rented houses, 870 (48.8%) did not rent houses. This implied that about half of the number of citizens in the local governments had homes or stayed with friends.

Data on Infrastructural Development

Table 4: Infrastructural development

S/N	Facilities that can make respondents stay and work in their villages	Yes	No
1	Slaughter house/abattoir	802 (44.9%)	983 (55.1%)
2	Electricity	1251 (70.1%)	534 (29.9%)
3	Pipe borne water	1227 (68.7%)	558 (31.3%)
4	Market stores	1306 (73.2%)	479 (26.3%)

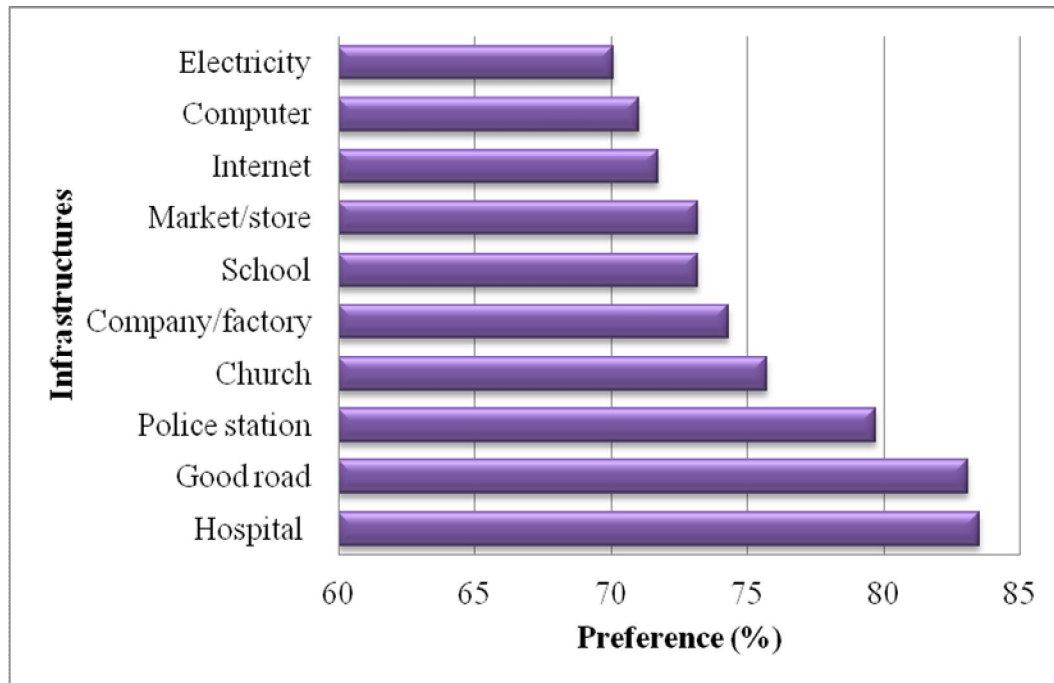
5	School	1307 (73.2%)	478 (26.8%)
6	Company/factory	1326 (74.3%)	459 (25.7%)
7	Hospital	1490 (83.5%)	295 (16.5)
8	Good road	1483 (83.1%)	303 (16.9%)
9	Police station	1422 (79.7%)	363 (20.3%)
10	Library/information centre	1248 (69.9%)	537 (30.1%)
11	Internet facility	1280 (71.7%)	505 (28.3%)
12	Church	1351 (75.7%)	434 (24.3%)
13	Computer centre	1268 (71.0%)	517 (29.0%)
14	Telephone accessibility	1023 (57.3%)	762 (42.7%)
15	Recreation centre	1076 (60.3%)	709 (39.7%)

Source: Field data, 2011.

N=1785

Table 4, presented infrastructures from which the respondents rated how needful each of them are to them. Figure 1 showed. Out of the 15, the most needed 10 in their community that may likely make them to stay and work from their village.

Figure 1: Major infrastructure that will induce citizens to stay and work in the village



Five infrastructures that would likely keep citizens at home were indicated as hospitals, good roads, police station, church/mosque, and factory or company in that order. One wondered why electricity was at the tenth position out of the 15 alternatives. Probably because many of the citizens had generators and had adapted to the situation they found themselves. It was discovered that the villagers were used to buying their own generators after a prolonged neglect from the government. Out of the five major infrastructures desired by the citizens, only one is actually for their employment. The rest of them are for their welfare and their children's welfare.

Infrastructural Adequacy in the Local Governments

The fifteen infrastructures listed on infrastructures that would make the citizens stay and work from their homes were repeated to test their adequacy.

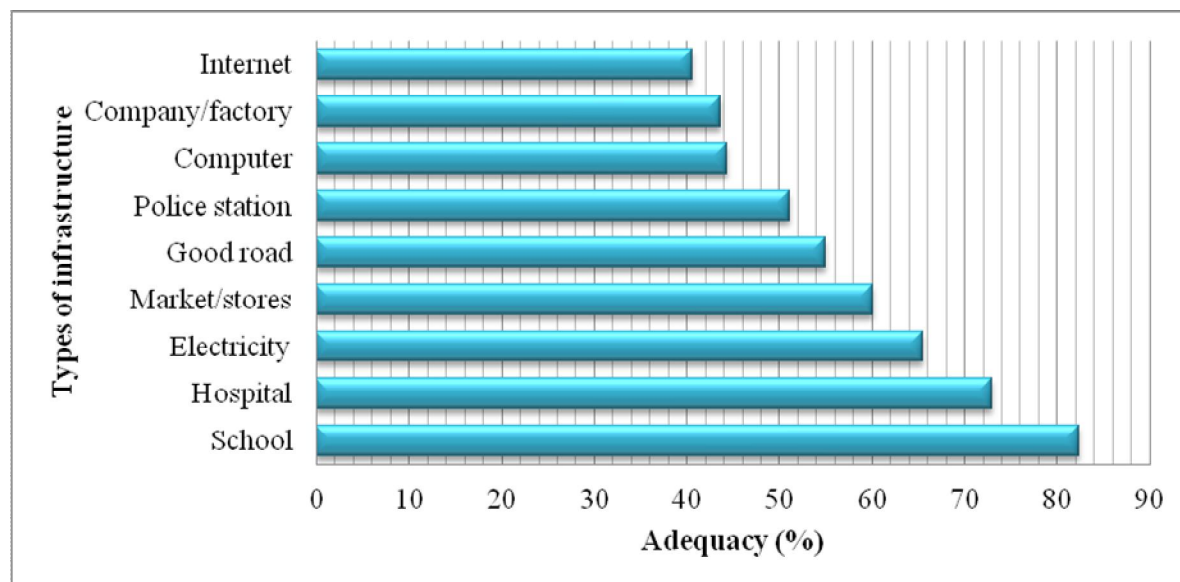


Fig. 2: Infrastructural Adequacy in the Local Governments

Of the 15 infrastructures listed only four scored 60% and above in adequacy and they were schools, hospitals, electricity, and market stores. Good roads and police station followed. These facilities were available but were they viable? The researcher passed through the communities and realized that the citizens were merely excited at the sight of these amenities.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of the Findings

This research work understudied 13 local governments in Imo State with the intention of ascertaining the potentials embedded in infrastructural development. The survey research also determined the awareness of the citizens of the infrastructures that will induce them to stay and work from their homes and how adequate the existing infrastructures were.

Availability of various categories of infrastructure in the local government areas would make many citizens to prefer to stay and work in their villages than elsewhere. However, the needed infrastructures in the local governments had been in short supply.

The citizens were aware that availability of the identified infrastructure would provide employment for them in addition to making life pleasurable. So, the citizens of the understudied local government areas were very convinced of the high potentials embedded in infrastructure to provide employment for them. So, the citizens are aware of the employment opportunities embedded in the provision of infrastructures. They are also adequately aware that infrastructures could lead to employment and reduce the rate of exodus of the rural dwellers to the cities.

Although the results of the survey suggested that there is adequate provision of infrastructure in the understudied local governments, the rate at which the citizens desired improvement in infrastructural provision in order for them to stay and work in their villages is an indication that the provision is actually inadequate. Moreover, it suggested that the available infrastructures

might not be in ultimate useful condition. Therefore, it is recommended that more infrastructures be provided by the local governments and that the available ones be reasonably maintained.

Recommendations

The local governments should provide welfare facilities for the citizens and their children. Out of the five infrastructures (those that were rated 73% and above as in Figure 1) that the citizens noted that would make them to stay and work in their villages, only one is for direct citizens' employment. So the citizens need comfort and security to stay in the villages. Hospitals, good roads, police stations, churches and factories are criteria for reduction of exodus of villagers to the cities.

This research was an integrated one for 13 local governments in Imo State; individual local governments in Nigeria could be investigated to see if the effect will be the same.

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