

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF EMOHUA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE (2001-2012)**

**Akujuru, Chukwunonye Abovu**

B.Ed (Political Science), M.Sc Public Administration and Local Government, LL.B (LAW), B.L(LAW)  
Senior Lecturer /head of Public Administration Department,  
Rivers State College of Arts and Science, Rumuola, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, West Africa.

---

**ABSTRACT:** *The study seeks to examine Local Government, Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State (2001-2012). A sample of 400 respondents from 14 wards of Emohua Local Government Area in Rivers State was studied. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaire administered, 387 copies were retrieved and after going through them 381 copies (i.e. 95% response rate) were found useful for data analysis. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used to test the hypotheses. The study identified the key problems affecting good governance, sustainable development and the economic empowerment of the people in local government areas in Nigeria; to include: Lack of funds to execute local government programmes, Lack of employment opportunities, Bribery and corruption / incompetence, lack of transparency and accountability, lack of planning for Good Governance / public objectives, non-government co-operation on socio- economic issues for the citizenry / decisions poor capacity utilization. Indeed there is still loud yearning for good governance at the local government level. From this study it is evident and conclusive that: Good governance promotes sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area, Good Governance encourages the economic empowerment of the people in local government areas. The study therefore recommends that: Instead of direct sharing or transfer of cash, local government should embark on programmes that can empower local citizenry. Equally, the controlling state governments should show good example in transparency and accountability to local political leaders. This will minimize corruption at local level. Finally, State governments should also desist from hijacking the functions of local government. It is by allowing local political leaders to discharge these functions while in office that they can master the ropes of governance.*

**KEYWORDS:** Local Government, Good Governance, Sustainable Development

---

## INTRODUCTION

The idea and practice of localizing government is a universal and age-old phenomenon. In Nigeria, before the emergence of the contemporary state system, governance in all originality was locally or community based. With the emergence of the state system, local government still finds a place in the scheme of things. The philosophy of localizing governance in the modern day setting as most scholars have concurred is anchored on the need to bring government closer to the people

(Mills, Janda, Barry, & Goldman, 2000; Ajayi, 2004; Kolawole, 2003; Ola, 2004). Thus even as its functions and relevance sometimes overlap with those of other levels government, it is still seen as a contrivance that will not only engender development and make governance more efficient and effective, but equally compatible with a major based view of democracy (Janda, Barry, & Goldman, 2000, p. 122).

After close to two decades of military repressive rule (1983-1999) Nigeria was again returned to democratic rule in 1999. When the new democratic dispensation was about to take-off, expectations of the citizens were high in respect of the responsiveness of the democratic government at all levels that were to succeed the military rulers. Indeed, it was a general presupposition that the incoming democratically elected government would envelope and deliver to the people good governance. While it is acknowledged that democracy is not a destination, it was still assumed that, democratic rule would usher in good governance at all levels. However, the report card has not portended flying colours for all the tiers of government in the country namely: Federal, State, and local government.

In the light of the above the study seeks to examine Local Government and Good Governance In Nigeria: A Case Study of Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State (2001-2012). Accordingly the following research questions have been answered in this study:

- i. To what extent does good governance encourage sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State?
- ii. To what extent does good governance promote quality decision on sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State?
- iii. To what extent does Good Governance influence the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State?
- iv. What are the major problems affecting good governance, sustainable development and as well causing the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State?

### **Background and Setting of the Study ( Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State)**

The study was conducted in Emuoha Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Emuoha. It has an area of 831 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 201,901 based on 2006 census. The postal code of the area is 511. Emuoha Local Government Area has 14 political wards. The survey research or method, generally regarded as the selection of representative samples whose analysis can be readily generalized, was used in this study. The study population comprises all people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. There are 106943 males and 94958 females totaling 201901 people in Emohua Local Government Area based on 2006 population census figures. This figure 201901 comprises the population for the study.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### Concept of Good Governance

In order to bring the term “good governance” into proper perspective, it is appropriate to first examine the meaning of governance. Governance has been defined as the exercise of political, economic and social authority to regulate human interactions for the wellbeing of society. In this sense, governance can be seen as an attempt by the state machinery (government or constituted authority) to translate into concrete realities, the objectives for which a political society is established which in the main consists of maintenance of law and order and the promotion of the welfare of the members of the political society in all ramifications.

Human history has however revealed that the performances of the people charged with the responsibility of governance have, in term of satisfying the yearnings of the members of their states and fulfilling the traditional and primary aim of governance – maintenance of law and order – have varied. While some succeeded in fulfilling the traditional aims of governance, others have indeed engaged in the perversion of the core aims of governance. It is this perversion that brought about the concept of “bad governance”, which has in turn generated the desire to remove bad governance and thus the emergence of the term “good governance”. More specifically, in state where governance has metamorphosed from its purposeful ends to perverted ends, governance is characterized by socio-economic regressions; violation of the rule of law; and mismanagement of state resources or corruption; general ineffectiveness and inefficiency; neglect of the welfare of the populace and breakdown of law and order. Those were and still indeed the trends of governance on the continent of Africa. As all these have hindered the development of such countries the so-called promoters of development in the developing countries led by the princely World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the industrialized countries, “re-articulated”, “re-echoed” and redefined the primary aim of governance and made it not only the central aim or new aspiration for the developing countries, but also a desiderata for granting them development aid. In the conception of these financial Institutions therefore, “good governance” amounts to transparency, accountability, enforcement of the rule of law; effective and efficient delivery of public services, widening of democratic space or political participation.

However, let it be said that the rule of classifying government as “good” and “bad” did not start with the World Bank and the IMF. Over two thousand years ago, Aristotle engaged in the classification of government on the basis of “good” or “bad”. For example, he pinpointed that if one man rule is “good”, it is called monarchy and if it is bad it is called “tyranny”. Where the few rule in good manner this form of government he called Aristocracy; and when the rule of few is bad he called the form of government, oligarchy. Good rule of many he called polity while its perversion is dubbed mob rule (democracy). In another conception good governance has been defined as a state of satisfactory fulfillment of expectations and the achievement of societal well being by the mandated authority (African Leadership Forum, Dialogue 2000, p. 4). The attainment of good governance in essence requires accountability, transparency, the rule of law and respect for human rights; responsiveness, a strong civil society, free press, social sanctions and reward system, popular participation, efficient systems and structures. In this context however, it is realized that local government does not have the capacity and the capability to prosecute all these

indices of good governance all alone. However, they do not only have the instrumentalities to perform their constitutionally assigned duties, they are also expected to be responsive to the immediate needs of the local people, get the people involved in their affairs; and carry out their responsibilities with all sense of transparency and accountability.

In this context of assessing or evaluating the performance of local government, therefore, “good governance shall be narrowed down to the capability and capacity of local government to discharge their constitutionally assigned functions effectively and efficiently; the level of transparency and accountability in the conduct of local government business; the extent of responsiveness of the mandated local authorities to local needs and issues and the degree of popular participation in local matters”.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In analyzing this topic, our framework shall be eclectic for scholars have generated different but complementary thoughts to explain the rationale or justification for the existence of local government. Four of such thoughts are discernible and shall be eclectically employed to analyze this study. First is the position that local government exists to bring about democracy and create opportunities for political participation and socializing the local citizenry (Agagu, 2004, p. 176). Flowing from this local government constitutes a vehicle by which political training can be given and leadership qualities can be fostered in young politicians at the local level. This point had been earlier stressed by John Stuart Mill (Cited in Ajayi, 2003, p. 6) when he submitted that local government is one of the free institutions which provide political education. In short, it is seen as a plank by which grassroots politics can be promoted. While local government truly engender participation in politics, this is not enough to explain its existence. This becomes apparent in the next equally germane line of thought which borders on accountability and control.

According to this perspective, since the local populace has the opportunity to elect their local representatives they can hold them accountable or control them in the performance of their responsibilities. In a nutshell, the school sees local government as arena for local citizenry to serve as effective watchdog and whistle blower over those that control their political destiny at the local level. Considered alone and even taken together with the earlier strand of thought, this rationale for the existence of local government is not also complete.

Throwing more light on the rationale for the existence of local government is the efficient service framework. The stance of this conception is simply that local government occupies the best position for the efficient performance of certain functions (Ajayi 2004: 5) put better still, the school holds that because of its closeness to the people and the smallness or manageable size of local government, it is better positioned to provide basic amenities or services much more efficiently or effectively. Local government is seen as small cut for the provision of services and that local government must be judged by the success they achieve in providing services measureable even by national standards (Ola, 2007, p. 177).

Fourth is the development perspective of the rationale for the existence of local government. According to this perspective, local government is a contrivance that can bring about political integration in developing societies that are ethnically plural and diffuse (ibid). In this sense, local government is seen as instrument through which national sentiments and national consciousness require to serve as impulse for national development and growth can be imparted on the populace. It is able to stimulate initiations, courage, drive and experimentation, identify available local skills, interests, and abilities and see or get them developed in the general interest (Ola, 2007).

From the foregoing, it is very palpable that none of these views is singularly sufficient to explain the rationale for the existence of local government. Second, it is the combination of all the views that give a world view of the indices of good governance. Also, none of these positions taken alone is adequate to evaluate the local governments in Nigeria as to whether or not they have matched the yardsticks for good governance. In order to give a comprehensive assessment, therefore, the combination of these views constitutes the framework of our analysis.

### **Functions of Local Government in Nigeria**

The functions of local government in the country are contained in the 1999 constitution. According to the fourth schedule of the constitution, the following are the functions of local government:

- a. The consideration and the making of recommendations to a State commission on economic planning or any similar body on
  - i. The economic development of the state, particularly in so far as the areas of authority of the council and of the state are affected, and
  - ii. Proposals made by the said commission of body;
- b. Collection of rates, radio and television licenses;
  - c. Establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for the destitute or infirm;
  - d. Licensing of bicycles, trucks (other than mechanically propelled trucks), canoes, wheel barrows and carts;
  - e. Establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets, motor packs and public conveniences;
  - f. Construction and maintenance of roads, streets, street lightings, drains and other public highways, parks gardens, open spaces, or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the House of Assembly of a state;
  - g. Naming of roads and streets and numbering of houses;
  - h. Provision and maintenance of public conveniences; sewage and refuse disposal;
  - i. Registration of all births, deaths and marriages;
  - j. Assessment of privately owned houses or tenements for the purpose of levying such rates as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly of a state; and
  - k. Control and regulation of:
    - i. Out-door advertising and hoarding,
    - ii. Movement and keeping of pests of all description,
    - iii. Shops and kiosks,
    - iv. Restaurants, bakeries and other places for sale of food to the public;
    - v. Laundries and

vi. Licensing regulation and control of the sale of liquor.

The functions of a local government council shall include participation of such council in government of a state in respect of the following matters.

- a. The provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education;
- b. The development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation of minerals;
- c. The provision and maintenance of health services;

And such other functions as may be conferred on a local government council by The House of Assembly of the State.

### **A Survey of the Performance of Local Governments in Nigeria**

In the last one decade, though the performance of the local governments in the country have varied from state to state, yet the general opinion is that in reality, local governments in the country have not delivered good governance. In general they have been found to have performed below expectation in the following areas or on the following grounds:

- \* Neglect or failure to embark on sufficient capital projects which can positively impact on the lives of the citizens e.g. inadequate provision of potable water, street light, modern markets, toilets etc..
- \* Embarkment on white elephant or otiose projects.
- \* Failure to enthrone enduring empowerment programmes for local citizens.
- \* Violation of the twin principles of accountability and transparency which has manifested in many corrupt practices such as embezzlement of funds, over invoicing or inflation of contracts, etc..
  - \* Projects abandonment.
  - \* Poor infrastructural facilities maintenance culture.
  - \* Arbitrariness in the application of rules and regulations or violation of the rule of law.
  - \* Inadequate communication between the political leaders at the helm of affairs at the local level and the citizenry (Jat & Sha, 2005; Field survey, 2011).

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This section deals with mechanisms for gathering of information for analysis of data. The population of this study comprises all the persons in Emohua Local Government Area of River State. Based on 2006 National Population Census Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State had a population of 201,901 people. Therefore, the population of the study consists of 201,901 people. The sample size has been chosen to involve all the people in the local government area delineated into fourteen (14) wards. The sample selection of the selected respondents recognized by this population definition was done randomly.

Primary data were generated from samples of the study. The instruments used to source these data were structured and unstructured questionnaire as well as random interviews of some of the respondents who expressed themselves on certain questions, open questions were included in the questionnaire. The secondary source of data consisted of desk research reviews of related literature which formed the foundation of this study; they were derived from standard texts, academic and professional journals

The tool of data analysis included: Simple averages, percentages, ranking and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient which have been proved to be useful statistical tools in data analysis.

## RESULTS

A sample of 400 respondents from 14 wards of Emohua Local Government Area in Rivers State was studied. Accordingly, 400 copies of questionnaire were administered on the respondents from Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaire administered, 387 copies were retrieved and after going through them 381 copies (i.e. 95% response rate) were found useful for data analysis.

### Research Question 1

To what extent does good governance encourage sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.?

**Table 1: The Extent to which Good Governance Encourages Sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area**

<i>Options</i>	<i>Number of respondents</i>	Percentage/Response
Very large extent	91	24%
Large extent	103	27%
Moderate extent	76	20%
Low extent	65	17%
Very low extent	46	12%
Total	381	100%

Source: Survey Data, 2014

Table 1 shows that 24% of the respondents indicated that to a very large extent good governance encourages sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area, 27% of them indicated 'to a large extent' while 20% of them indicated to a moderate extent to the question. Equally, 17% of the respondents indicated to a low extent to the question while only 12% of them indicated that to a very low extent good governance encourages sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area.

### Research Question 2

To what extent do socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area affect their efforts in achieving good governance from 2001-2012?

**Table 2: The Extent to which Socio-Economic Characteristics (Age and Educational Level) of the Leaders in Emohua Local Government Area Affect Their Efforts in Achieving Good Governance From 2001-2012**

<i>Options</i>	Number of Respondents	Percentage Response
Very large extent	107	28%
Large extent	91	24%
Moderate Extent	80	21%
Low Extent	61	16%
Very low extent	42	11%
Total	381	100%

Source: Survey Data, 2014

The data in table 2 reveal that 28% of the respondents ticked to a very large extent that socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area affect their efforts in achieving good governance from 2001-2012. Equally, 24% of them indicated to a large extent while 21% of the respondents indicated to a moderate extent that the socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area affect their efforts in achieving good governance from 2001-2012. The data further reveal that 16% of the respondents indicated that to a low extent socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area affect their efforts in achieving good governance from 2001-2012, while only 11% of them indicated to a very low extent to the question.

### Research Question 3

To what extent does Good Governance influence the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.?

**Table 3: The Extent to which Good Governance Influences the Economic Empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area**

Options	Number of Respondents	Percentage/Response
Very large extent	91	24%
Large extent	160	42%
Moderate Extent	88	23%
Low extent	30	8%
Very low extent	12	3%
Total	381	100%

Source: Survey Data, 2014

The data in table 3 show that 24% of the respondents agreed that to a very large extent Good Governance influences the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. Also 42% of them indicated to a large extent, while 23% of them indicated



that to moderate extent Good Governance influences the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. Equally, 8% of the respondents indicated to a low extent to the question while only 3% of them indicated to a very low extent that Good Governance influences the economic empowerment of the people.

#### Research Question 4

What are some of the problems affecting good governance, sustainable development and as well causing the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.?

**Table 4: Problems affecting Good governance, sustainable development and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State**

Options	Number of Respondents N = 381	Percentage Response	Rating
Lack of funds to execute local government programmes	354	93%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lack of employment opportunities	366	96%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Bribery and corruption / incompetence	293	77%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Lack of transparency and accountability	354	93%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lack of planning for Good Governance / public objectives	324	85%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Non government co-operation on socio - economic issues for the citizenry	354	93%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Inability to satisfy the yearnings of the members of the society	312	82%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Poor capacity utilization	316	83%	4 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Survey Data, 2014

Table 4 shows that one of the major factors affecting good governance, Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State is ‘Lack of employment opportunities’ as 96% of the respondents indicated this, thereby placing the option 1<sup>st</sup> among others. ‘Lack of funds to execute local government programmes’ ‘Non government co-operation on socio- economic issues for the citizenry’ and ‘Lack of transparency and accountability’ ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the rating as 93% of the respondents indicated them. Followed in the major factors affecting good governance, Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State is ‘Lack of planning for Good Governance / public objectives’ indicated by 85% of the respondents, thereby placing them 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ranking. The 4<sup>th</sup> major factors affecting good governance, Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State is ‘Poor capacity utilization’ identified by 83% of the respondents. The 5<sup>th</sup> major factors affecting good governance, Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State is ‘inability to satisfy the yearnings of the members of the society’. Finally,

the respondents (through 77% of them) identified 'Bribery and corruption / incompetence' as the 6<sup>th</sup> major factors affecting good governance, Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

### Testing of Hypotheses

Having presented and analyzed the data generated for this study this section is devoted to testing of the three hypotheses formulated in the study. They have been tested using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient

### Hypothesis I (Ho<sub>1</sub>)

There is no significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area and their efforts in achieving good governance from 2001-2012.

**Table 5: Socio-Economic Characteristics (Age and Educational Level) and the Efforts of the Leaders in achieving Good Governance from 2007**

Variable	Frequency (X)	Efforts of the Leaders in achieving Good Governance (Y)	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	XY
<b>(A). Age</b>					
18 – 21 (19.50)	117	106	13689	11236	12402
22 – 25 (23.50)	88	91	7744	8281	8008
26 – 29 (27.50)	99	103	9801	10609	10197
30 – 33 (31.50)	59	55	3481	3025	3245
34 – 37 (35.50)	19	26	324	676	468
Total	381	381	35039	33827	34320
<b>(B). Educational status</b>					
None	27	19	729	361	513
Primary	36	21	1296	441	756
Secondary	72	81	5184	6561	5832
Technical / Vocational	104	112	10816	14884	12688
Tertiary	142	138	20164	19044	19596
Total	381	381	38189	41291	39385

Source: Survey Data, 2014

(a) Age of the respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance.

r = 0.98 (positive relationship)

t = 8.53 (very significant)

t crit @ 3;0.05 = 3.18

(b) Educational level of the respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance.

$r = 0.97$  (positive relationship)

$t = 6.91$  (very significant)

$t_{crit} @ 3;0.05 = 3.18$

The data in table 5 are drawn to see whether there is any significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance. From the statistical presentations above with respect to the age of the respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance; the values of  $r$  computed (i.e. 0.98) and  $t$  computed (i.e 8.53) show that  $t$  computed is greater than the figure obtained from the statistical table, which is 3.18. Equally, with respect to educational status of the respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance; the values of  $r$  computed (i.e. 0.97) and  $t$  computed (i.e 6.91) show that  $t$  computed is greater than the figure obtained from the statistical table, which is 3.18. Based all these it has become apparent that the study should reject the null hypothesis 1 and accept the alternate hypothesis 1, meaning that - 'There is positive/ significant relationship between characteristics (age and educational level) of the leaders in Emohua local government area and their efforts in achieving good governance.

### Hypothesis II (H02)

There is no significant relationship between good governance in Emohua local government area and sustainable development from 2001-2012.

**Table 6: Statistical Relationship between E good governance in Emohua local government area and Sustainable Development from 2004 to 2007**

Extent of Relationship	Good Governance in Emohua local government area (X)	Sustainable Development (Y)	$X^2$	$Y^2$	XY
Very large extent	89	91	7921	8281	8099
Large extent	162	103	26244	10609	16686
Moderate extent	85	76	7225	5776	6460
Low extent	32	65	1024	4225	2080
Very low extent	13	46	169	2116	598
Total	381	381	42583	31007	33923

Source: Survey Data 2014

$r = 0.945$  (positive relationship)

$t = 5.16$  (very significant)

$t_{crit} @ 3;0.05 = 3.18$

The data in table 6 are drawn to see whether there is significant relationship between good governance in Emohua local government area and sustainable the development. From the statistical presentations above and the values of  $r$  computed (i.e. 0.945) and  $t$  computed (i.e. 5.16)

it is obvious that the computed t value is greater than the figure obtained from the table, which is 3.18. Therefore, 'there is positive/ significant relationship between good governance in Emohua local government area and sustainable development in Rivers State'.

### Hypothesis III (Ho3)

There is no significant relationship between Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State from 2001-2012

**Table 7: Statistical Relationship between Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State from 2001-2012**

Extent of Relationship	Good Governance (X)	Economic Empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State (Y)	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	XY
Very Large extent	91	91	8281	8281	8281
Large extent	160	103	25600	10609	16480
Moderate extent	88	76	7744	5776	6688
Low extent	30	65	900	4225	1950
Very low extent	12	46	144	2116	552
Total	381	381	42669	31007	33951

Source: Survey Data 2014

$r = 0.948$  (positive relationship)

$t = 5.27$  (computed) significant

$t_{crit} @ 3; 0.05 = 3.18$

From the data in table 7 and the computation of the r value (which is 0.948) and t value (which is 5.27); it is conclusive that the computed value of 't' is greater than the one obtained from the statistical table, which is 3.18. Therefore, the study has rejected the null hypothesis III and accepted the alternate hypothesis III  $H_{i3}$  which says "There is significant relationship between Good Governance and Economic Empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State".

## DISCUSSIONS

The study revealed that to a very large extent good governance influences sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area. Equally, the respondents agreed that socio-economic characteristics (age and educational level) of the respondents affect their efforts in achieving good governance.

The respondents agreed that Good Governance has effect on the economic empowerment of the people. The reality of the finding of this study is that jobs are not freely available, especially in local government areas where unemployment is high. This has been corroborated by Ajayi, (2004) who submits that the current practice is to take what is available, which might mean accepting non performance of local government in Nigeria. This eventually leads to the non economic empowerment of the people in the area of provisions.

The study found that good governance is also known to bring with itself technological advancements that can both be important to child up- bringing process and at the same time negative. Technological advancement has led into better and improved living standards in terms of education, healthcare and human social life Mills *et al*, (2000) opine. The study has identified the key problems affecting good governance, sustainable development and the economic empowerment of the people in local government areas in Nigeria; they include: Lack of funds to execute local government programmes, Lack of employment opportunities, Bribery and corruption / incompetence, lack of transparency and accountability, lack of planning for Good Governance / public objectives, non government co-operation on socio- economic issues for the citizenry / decisions poor capacity utilization.

## CONCLUSION

The attainment of good governance in Nigeria under the current democratic dispensation is a joint endeavour of the governmental tripod; Federal, State and Local governments. Local government has come a long way in the country. However, it is observable that local governments in the country are hardly effective and efficient. Indeed there is still loud yearning for good governance at the local government level. Whichever the case, it is evident and conclusive that:

- Good governance promotes sustainable development in Emohua Local Government Area,
- Good Governance encourages the economic empowerment of the people in local government areas.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings of this study and the conclusions the following recommendations have been made:

1. There is the need to as a matter of urgency entrench new ethical orientation in the local citizenry as to the essence of local government. This should be aimed at letting the citizens know that local governments are not contrived to engage in “cash sharing”, but to discharge their constitutional functions to the citizenry in effective and efficient manner.
2. Instead of direct sharing or transfer of cash, local government should embark on programmes that can empower local citizenry.
3. The controlling state governments should show good example in transparency and accountability to local political leaders. This will minimize corruption at local level.
4. The civil society should play the role of whistleblower in the monitoring of the activities of the local political office-holders. The attention of the anti corruption agencies such as Economic

and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) etc. should be drawn to any financial misdemeanor by the office-holders for prosecution. This will serve as deterrent to others who may engage in corrupt practices.

5. State governments should also desist from hijacking the functions of local government. It is by allowing local political leaders to discharge these functions while in office that they can master the ropes of governance.

6. There is need to entrench the principle of recall into local government administration. Its use should cover both the legislative and executive arm of government. This will minimize the danger of party dictatorship.

## REFERENCES

- Agbakoba, O., & Ogbonna, H. (n.d.). *Local Government Administration and Development in Nigeria*. A Capacity Building Manual for the Human Services. African Leadership Forum Dialogue 2000. Rights Law
- Ajayi, K. (2003). Theories of Local Government. In K. Ajayi (Ed.), *Theory and Practice of Local Government*. Ibadan, Johnmof Printers Ltd..
- Dalhatu, S. (2007). Local Government as Third Tier of Government in Nigeria's Emergent Democratic Dispensation. *International Journal of Law and Contemporary Studies*, 2(1&2).
- Denhardt, R. B., & Denhardt, J. V. (2009). *Public Administration: An Action Orientation*. Washington, Thomson Wadsworth.
- Janda, K., Berry, J. M., & Goldman, J. (2000). *The Challenges of Democracy*. New York, Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Jat, R. B., & Sha, D. P. (2005). *The Performance of Local Government Council in the North Cental Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria*. Ibadan, Stirling: HordanPublishers Ltd..
- Kolawole, D. K. (2003). *Local Government and Problems of Service Delivery*. In K. Ajayi (Ed.), *Theory and Practice of Local Government*. Ibadan, JohnmofPrinters Ltd..
- Khemani, S. (2004). *Local Government Accountability for Service Delivery in Nigeria*. Washington, Development Research Group, the World Bank. Local Government Administration and Bye-Laws in Nigeria. (n.d.). Abuja, Officof the Vice President.\
- Oke, L. (2001). Local Government System in Nigeria. In F. Omotoso (Ed.), *Contemporary Issues in Public* 122 Copyright © Canadian Academy of Oriental and Occidental Culture Local Government and Good Governance in Nigeira's Emerging Democracy, 1999-2011: An Analysis of the Constraining Factors *Administration*. Lagos, Bolabay Publications.
- Ola, R. F. (2004). Local Government Theory & Practice: An Examination of Modernization Efforts in Three Decades of Nigerian Local Government (1975-2003). In A. A. Agagu & R. F. Ola (Eds.), *Development Agenda of the Nigerian State*. Ibadan, Fiag (Nigeria) Publishers.
- Olaoye, E. O. (1998). Local Government Creation Under the Abacha Regime. In

D. Kolawole & N. Mimiko (Eds.), *Political Democratization and Deregulation Nigeria Under the Abacha Administration, 1993-1998*. Ado- Ekiti, Department of Political Science.

Olowu, D. et al. (1991). *Local Institutions and National Development in Nigeria*. Ile-Ife, Research Group in Local Institutions and O. A. U. Press. *The Nigerian 1999 Constitutions*. Lagos, Federal Government Press.

**Appendix A: Computation of the Values of r and t through Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and t – test for Testing of Hypothesis 1**

**Table 5B: Socio-Economic Characteristics (Age and Educational and the Efforts of the Leaders in achieving Good Governance**

Variable	Frequency (X)	Efforts of the Leaders in achieving Good Governance (Y)	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	XY
<b>(A). Age</b>					
18 – 21 (19.50)	117	106	13689	11236	12402
22 – 25 (23.50)	88	91	7744	8281	8008
26 – 29 (27.50)	99	103	9801	10609	10197
30 – 33 (31.50)	59	55	3481	3025	3245
34 – 37 (35.50)	19	26	324	676	468
Total	381	381	35039	33827	34320
<b>(B). Educational status</b>					
None	27	19	729	361	513
Primary	36	21	1296	441	756
Secondary	72	81	5184	6561	5832
Technical / Vocational	104	112	10816	14884	12688
Tertiary	142	138	20164	19044	19596
Total	381	381	38189	41291	39385

Source: Survey Data, 2014

(c) Age of the leaders / respondents and their efforts in achieving good governance.

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

$$= \frac{5(34320) - (381)(381)}{\sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

$$r = \frac{5(35039) - (381)^2 \times 5(33827) - (381)^2}{\sqrt{300034 \times 23974}} = \frac{26439}{26834} = 0.98$$

Testing for level of significance ‘t’

$$t = \frac{r \sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-(r)^2}}$$

$$t = 0.98 \frac{\sqrt{5-2}}{\sqrt{1-(0.98)^2}} = \frac{1.697}{0.1989} = 8.53$$

(High level of significance)

- a) Relationship between the Educational Status of the Respondent and their efforts in achieving good governance.

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

$$= \frac{5(39385) - (381)(381)}{\sqrt{5(38189) - (381)^2 \times 5(41291) - (381)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{51764}{45784 \times 52974} = \frac{51764}{52974} = 0.97$$



Testing for level of significance ‘t’

$$t = r \frac{\sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-(r)^2}}$$

$$t = 0.97 \frac{\sqrt{5-2}}{\sqrt{1-(0.97)^2}} = \frac{1.68}{0.243}$$

$$= 6.91$$

$$t = 6.91$$

(High level of significance)

**Appendix B: Computation of the Values of r and t through Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and t – test for Testing of Hypothesis 2**

**Table 6B: Statistical Relationship between E good governance in Emohua local government area and Sustainable Development**

Extent of Relationship	Good Governance in Emohua local government area (X)	Sustainable Development (Y)	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	XY
Very large extent	89	91	7921	8281	8099
Large extent	162	103	26244	10609	16686
Moderate extent	85	76	7225	5776	6460
Low extent	32	65	1024	4225	2080
Very low extent	13	46	169	2116	598
Total	381	381	42583	31007	33923

Source: Survey Data 2014

r = 0.945 (positive relationship)

t = 5.16 (very significant)

t crit @ 3;0.05 = 3.18

r =  $\frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{n \sqrt{(\sum x^2)(\sum y^2) - (\sum x)^2(\sum y)^2}}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]} \\ &= \sqrt{5(33923) - (381)^2} \times \sqrt{5(31007) - (381)^2} \\ &= \frac{24454}{\sqrt{67754 \times 9874}} = \frac{24454}{25865} = 0.945 \\ & r = 0.945 \end{aligned}$$

Testing for level of significance ‘t’

$$\begin{aligned} t &= r \sqrt{\frac{n-2}{1-(r)^2}} \\ t &= 0.945 \sqrt{\frac{5-2}{1-(0.945)^2}} = \frac{1.645}{0.3122} \\ &= 5.27 \\ t &= 5.27 \end{aligned}$$

(High level of significance)

**Appendix C: Computation of the Values of r and t through Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and t – test for Testing of Hypothesis 3**

**Table 7B: Statistical Relationship between Good Governance and the economic empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State**

Extent of Relationship	Good Governance (X)	Economic Empowerment of the people in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State (Y)	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	XY
Very Large extent	91	91	8281	8281	8281
Large extent	160	103	25600	10609	16480
Moderate extent	88	76	7744	5776	6688
Low extent	30	65	900	4225	1950
Very low extent	12	46	144	2116	552
Total	381	381	42669	31007	33951

Source: Survey Data 2014

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

$$= \frac{5(33951) - (381)(381)}{\sqrt{5(31007) - (381)^2 \times 5(42669) - (381)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{24593.86}{9874 \times 68183.86} = \frac{24593.86}{25865} = 0.948$$

r = 0.948

Testing for level of significance 't'

$$t = \frac{r \sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-(r)^2}}$$

$$t = 0.945 \frac{\sqrt{5-2}}{\sqrt{1-(0.945)^2}} = \frac{1.645}{0.3122} = 5.27$$

t = 5.27

(High level of significance)