



IMPARTATIVE OF DEVELOPMENT CENTRES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EBONYI STATE: A STUDY OF SELECTED CENTRES (2007-2017)

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Abstract: *The study titled “Imperative of Development Centres for Rural Development in Ebonyi State: A Study of Selected Centres (2007-2017)” examined how appointment of Coordinators of Development Centers by Ebonyi State Governors (2007 – 2017) affect rural development in Ebonyi State; examined the rate at which political power tussles between Local Government Chairmen and Development Center Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State; determined the extent to which funding of Development Centers affect rural development in Ebonyi State. The theory adopted for this study is Democratic Participatory Theory propounded by Jean-Jacques Rousseau in 1896 and later promoted by J.S. Mill and G. D. H. Descriptive Survey Design was adopted. The population was 193,404 and sample size was 399. Data were from primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire instrument was used in data collection. Multi stage sampling technique was used. Simple percentages were used in data presentation while statistical chi-square through SPSS was used in test of hypotheses. Findings revealed that Appointment of Development Center Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors affects rural development in Ebonyi State; Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Center Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State; and Funding of Development Centers affect rural development in Ebonyi State. The study therefore recommended that Appointment of Development Center Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors should be based on competence in order to promote rural development in Ebonyi State; There should be cordial relationship between local Government Chairmen and development Center Coordinators to facilitate rural development in Ebonyi State and There is a need for adequate funding of Development Centers to promote rural development in Ebonyi State.*

Keywords: Development Centres, Rural Development, Agricultural Development Strategy

1.1 Background to the Study

Overtime, rural development across the globe, especially the African continents has been a matter of serious concern. This is due largely to the fact that greater population of the people reside in the rural communities and most raw materials for various forms of productions come from the rural areas. Historically, since the colonial times, most development efforts of most developing countries of the world were concentration on the urban

areas at the expense of the rural communities which greater population live. This situation as vividly captured by Nwali, Nwoba and Elom (2014) has caused negligence of the rural areas where most raw materials for the development and sustenance of the urban Centres come from.

Onwuka (2012) argues that rural development is an all-embracing phenomenon and its problems are so involved that it is requiring remedies at all cost. He added that



pragmatic approach needs to be developed by the government and the people to enhance the living standard of the greater population living in the rural areas. In view of this, Onah, (2010) revealed that it was until the 1970s that governments of the developing counties began to think of definite policy and programmes for the development of the rural areas. Thus, the developing countries became much aware that meaningful development of any nation cannot take place when the bulk of its population is still poor and neglected. This is why considerable attention is now being placed on the issue of rural development by not only making special budgetary provisions, but also inviting international assistance and development partners to address rural development issues.

It should be borne in mind that the idea of local government creation was at first aimed at addressing the developmental challenges facing the rural areas. Scholars and practitioners have generally agreed that the local government is a grassroots government closer to the people and charged with the roles and responsibilities of developing the rural areas. But, despite this, development of the rural areas in Nigeria according to various studies have remained an aberration. The idea of Creating Development centres by some states in Nigeria according to Nwali et al(2014) is perhaps one of the institutional approaches to effective rural development in Nigeria, just as Onah (2010) contended that Development Centres are administrative centres created from existing local government in the states backed by the law of the State Assemblies. He added that Development Centres are prototypes of local government councils in a state, with officials appointed by the state governors.

In Ebonyi State, Ebonyi State law No.7 of 2001 local government creation and transition provisions as amended empowered the existence of Development Centres to address the developmental imbalances amongst the rural communities in the state. Presently, there exists 64 Development Centres in Ebonyi State being headed by Coordinators and 5-member Management Committees.

Nwali (2013) contended that most local governments in Ebonyi State are petty large and differently characterized. This therefore gave rise for the need to split them into Development Centres and still allowing the local governments to maintain their originalities. The idea for Development Centres is to further bring government closer to the people. Development Centres are therefore administrative growth poles or growth centres which cater for the peculiar needs of the rural areas.

Further reasons for the creation of Development Centres as captured by Okpata (2004), Onah (2010) and Nwali (2013) is decentralization in infrastructures which hitherto were concentrated at the local government Headquarters. Other factors are for supervision and proper monitoring of projects and infrastructures in their various domain areas. Thus, the philosophy and rationale behind the creation of Development Centres in Nigeria generally and Ebonyi State in particular is hinged on the core tasks derived from the structures and functions of the local government system. The core tasks equally derived from the ideological tenets of the regime in power and to some extent, determines the structural configuration of the local government administration, (Okpata, 2004). Therefore, within the local government, the expectation is that there should be congruence between the structure and the core tasks, and between the core task and the ideological tenets of the government/regime in power. This rationale pervades the evolution of local government creation in Nigeria and that of Development Centres in Ebonyi State (Nwali et al, 2014).

Ebonyi State government in 2001 and 2006 respectively in the laws of the State House of Assembly created 64 Development Centres with the major objectives to:

- i. Ensure stable and balanced state;
- ii. Decentralize power to the rural populace;
- iii. Enhance the structure of political and social mobilization in the state, (Ebonyi state local government law, 2001).



This study is therefore undertaken to evaluate the imperativeness of Development Centre creation for rural development in Ebonyi state.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issue of development has become so encompassing and dynamic to the point that while development can be wholistic, yet, it can still be located within the ambits of other strata of the society. On a broad spectrum, there can be efforts towards world development, national development, state development and local or rural development. Some governments in recent times have identified rural development as the major approach to wholistic development of the state. Some state governments in the country saw this need and took the bull by the horn by establishing Ministries of Rural Development as well as creating Development Centres in order to bring development closer to the people.

The idea of creating Development Centres in Ebonyi State is perhaps a quick response towards adopting institutional approach towards effective development of the state. This move for Development Centre creation came on board in the emergence of 1999 civilian administration after some decades of military rules. Ebonyi State government took the lead in this regard under the administration of Dr. Sam Egwu who created 64 Development Centres in 2001 and 2006 respectively through the Ebonyi law NO. 7 2001 as amended in 2006. The creation of the Development Centres in the state was highly applauded and welcomed by the people who saw it as a veritable agent of rural development and economic emancipation. However, irrespective of the elegant idea for Development Centre creation in Ebonyi State, the rural areas of the state still suffers various forms of lack of development, ranging from poor road network, poor living standard, lack of health care and educational facilities and presence of endemic and pandemic diseases among others.

Amongst the major challenges faced by Development Centres in addressing the problems of rural development in Ebonyi State range from political problems, through

social problems to financial problems. More so, it is observable that most governors of the state use Development Centres as compensation to their political allies by appointing them as Coordinators and Management Committee members. There is also a situation where power tussle between chairmen of the mother local governments and the Coordinators is vicariously ferocious to the point that rural development is abandoned, to engage in political muscle flexing between the grass root leaders. Also, since Development Centres depend on their mother local governments and the state governments for fund, development of the rural areas will no doubt continue to suffer from various political manipulations, hence development is fund oriented.

In specific terms, this study identifies political patronage of state governors who use appointment into the Development Centres as cheap gifts to their supporters and allies as well as those who failed elections. Also, the issue of power tussles between Chairmen of mother local governments and Development Centre Coordinators. It is no doubt that some coordinators of Development Centres are appointed by the state governor to serve as their eyes and informants in the local governments who report the actions of the local government chairmen to the state governors. Also, the problem of funding the Development Centres which are always at the mercies of what falls out of the hands of the state and local governments to execute any project or programme defeats the aims of rural development. The appointment of the development Centres coordinators is the major problem in rural development because they believed that they are only answerable to the governors. There is no specific funding rising avenue for the development Centres.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In broad terms, the study aimed at evaluating the imperatives of Development Centres for rural development in Ebonyi State.

Specifically, the study is meant;



1. To evaluate how appointment of Coordinators of Development Centres by Ebonyi State Governors affect rural development in Ebonyi State.
2. To examine the extent to which political power tussles between Local Government Chairmen and Development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State.
3. To determine the extent to which funding of Development Centres affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. How has the appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors affect rural development in Ebonyi State?
2. To what extent has the political power tussles between local government chairmen and Development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State?
3. To what extent has funding of Development Centres affect rural development in Ebonyi State?

1.5 Hypotheses

The following formulated hypotheses in their null forms guided the study:

- H_{A1}: Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors do not significantly affect rural development in Ebonyi State.
- H_{A1}: Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators do not significantly affect rural development in Ebonyi State.
- H_{A1}: Funding of Development Centres have no significant effect on rural development in Ebonyi State.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

The views of Torado in Nwali (2019) contended that development in general is a multi-dimensional process

involving the organization and re-organization of the entire economic and social system, an improvement in income level and output, radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes, customs and beliefs. It can be deduced from the words of Torado above that for any activity to be termed development, it must be viewed from various standpoints; development can be physical (in terms of physical infrastructure, road, health care facilities, etc); it also involve the state of the mind (psychological in terms of better exposure, education and orientation). Another angle to view the concept of development is from the economic standpoint which involves increase in employment, economic well-being of the citizenry, all geared towards the transformation of institutions and the society at large.

Since the colonial times, development efforts of most developing countries of the world were directed towards the urban Centres with undue negligence of the rural areas, even though most of the raw materials for the development of the urban Centres come from the rural areas. It was not until the 1970s, according to Onah (2010) and Nwali, Nwoba & Elom (2014), that governments of developing countries began to think of definite policies and programmes for the development of the rural areas. It dawned on them that there would be no meaningful and significant development and transformation of any nation without rural development because the rural centres are the places where greater number of the societal population dwells; therefore, they began to shift development towards the rural areas which hold the major population of the society means negligence and allowance of such great number of people to remain in poverty and abjection.

Stemming from the above background, considerable attention at present is being placed on rural development, not only by making considerable budgetary provisions, but designing laudable programmes and policies towards rural development as well as involving international assistance and development partners. Nigeria being amongst the



developing countries also joined in the pragmatic approach towards rural development in the country.

Nwali (2014) alluding to Onah (2010) stated that one of the reasons behind the idea of creating development Centres by some states in Nigeria is perhaps a quick response towards adopting institutional approaches to effective rural development in Nigeria. Development centres by way of simple definition are administrative centres created from existing local governments in the state backed by edicts of the state assemblies with the aim of stepping down development to the rural dwellers. Development centres in some states are prototypes of local government councils in a state with officials appointed by the state governors; sometimes, on the ratification by the state assemblies.

This move for development centre creation came on board the advent of the current fourth republic in 1999. Ebonyi State government took the lead in this regard under the administration of Dr. Sam Egwu who created 64 development centres in 2006 through the Ebonyi State law No. 7 of 2001. The law as amended in August, 2006 stipulates that the development centres be headed by a Coordinator and 5-member Management Committee. Other states of the federation including Enugu State joined in the creation of development centres with the sole aim of stepping development down to the people in the hinterland. Agreeably, most local government areas in the country have large landmass and are differently characterized. This partly gives reason for the creation of development centres which are assumed to be closer to the people. Development centres are therefore growth poles or centres which cater and care for the particular needs of the rural areas, (Nwali, 2014). More so, Okpata (2003) and Onah (2010) share similar views as those of Nwali above when they adduced further reasons for the creation of development centres to decentralization of infrastructures which hitherto, were concentrated at the local government headquarters. Closely related to this are supervision and monitoring of projects which development centres are at vantage position to effectively achieve due to their proximity to the rural areas,

as officials are often available to monitor rural development projects and infrastructures in their domains. Rural development has been defined by Izuogu (2013) as a process of social change, geared towards the expansion of the human mind and increase skills for the creation of opportunities; leading to the realization of the potentials of the rural dwellers. Rural development according to Lele in Nwakamma, Michael, Ejem, Ernest (2020) standard of the mass of low-income population residing in rural area and making the process of their development self-sustaining. Beginning with the exploration of rural development as a sub-set of national development, it could be said that the very survival of any nation depends on rural development. This is true because any development effort that does not take into account fundamental changes for the better in the lifestyle of the peasant farmer, fisherman, petty trader, herdsman, labourer etc is grossly inadequate.

The implication of this is that development programmes should be designed to such a way as to have the greatest impact in rural areas. This accounts for the Federal governments' declaration of rural development as the centre focus of national development in 1985. Okenwa (2002) in Nwali (2013). Rural development should encourage dialogue between the people concerned and the government as well as development agents. It implies mobilizing the people to participate in development process; that is decision making, planning and implementation of the programmes. The people should be part of the evaluation team with a view to determine the success or failures of the project. Rural development means an action, plan for the economic and social upliftment of rural areas. It aims at improving the quality of life of people living in rural areas. Rural development also focus on the action for the development of the areas that are lagging behind in the overall development of the rural economy. (<http://byjus.com>mea...>). Apart from the very purpose of the Nigeria local government system to deliver socio-economic services to the grassroots people, it is relevant to note that this role cannot be achieved



successfully without improving the revenue base of the rural development centres. In a democratic area like our (Nigeria), it is important that specific function should be given to develop the rural areas.

Nwachukwu (1985) cited in Okoli & Onah (2002) highlighted the important feature of Nigeria's rural areas in the following words. Its inhabitants are mainly farmers who maintain small holdings and practice seasonal farming; their production is mainly on subsistence level and food crops productivity and standard of living are low. They are certified victims of preventable diseases, which derive from malnutrition. Inside the rural dwelling place man, woman and children are herded together under condition of life so poor that it prevents the realization of man's total potential.

2.1.1 Development and Rural Development: A Case for Development Centres

Development involves progression, movement and advancement towards better living conditions, (Okoli and Onah, 2002). It is on improvement in the material and non-material aspects of life. A developing community is thus a community in motion, a people in search of self-improvement and a group concerned and committed to its advancement through its own efforts, (Onah 2010).

Development goes beyond economic and social indicators to include the elements of human resources and positive change in their behaviour. Development includes increase in the citizens' access to:

- Food, water and shelter.
- Information and means of communication
- Healthcare delivery, and
- Justice, etc.

When these are obtainable, there will be increase in the individual's dignity, happiness and patriotic values and quality of life. The main contention according to Okoli and Onah (2002) is that development is both a physical process and a state of the mind. The transformation of institution is one aspect which is capable of making the thinking of the

people to change in the right direction. The actions, reactions and interactions which qualify for inclusion as elements of development are products of rational thinking, conscious planning and genuine citizens' involvement. They are not chance events or chance phenomena. They relate first to economic system because they seek to raise living standards, widen extensively the scope of productive work at the community level and rate or strengthen the necessary foundations or infrastructure for higher, larger and more beneficial changes in the economy.

Development also has social dimension because they affect education, housing, games and sports, culture, care of fellow human beings, social ethics and social justice and these are matters of both the body and the mind which jointly facilitate growth and more meaningful advancement of the individual in the society. The political angle to the study of development is in fact that it seeks to create a pattern of legitimacy; patterns which are good and valid because they create better opportunity to enable all or the most significant groups in the population to participate in the political process and have access to effective representation in the process of making decision and in allocating scarce resources and values of their communities.

The western liberal scholars see development as total transformation of traditional or pre-modern societies into the type of technologically advanced and stable nations of the western world. Implicit in the above definition is that there is one average or normal path to development which countries have followed in the past and which they are obliged to in the future. Okoh & Onah (2002). They distinguished the concept of development into economic, social and political aspects. According to them, economic development is a process of transforming from a primitive, traditional, agricultural and low-productivity of the economy to a modern, industrial and efficient capitalist economy. They also see social development as the institutionalization of western behaviour, patterns and norms, while political development focuses on the



continuous differentiation of political 'roles' and structure, increased sub-system, autonomy and a diffusion of secular rational norms in the political culture (Ofuebe, 2013).

The scholars of Marxist philosophical persuasion found the above conception of development grossly deficient, because, it has not led to real development; instead, it enhanced the progressive underdevelopment of most third world states. Thus, they see development as socio-economic transformation which man engenders as he collaborate with his fellows to interact with the natural environment through labour power. In other words, development is a human issue, which should involve the total and full mobilization of society. Development therefore is a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environments; transforming them for their own betterment and that of humanity at large and being transformed in the process, (Onah 2010).

Rural Development on the other hand concerns itself with the improvement of the living standards of the low-income people living in the rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with change (Ewuim, 2010).

This definition has three important features:

1. **Improving the living standards of the subsistence population:** This involves the mobilization and allocation of resources so as to reach a desirable balance over time between the welfare and productive service available to the rural subsistence populations.
2. **Mass participation:** This requires that resources be allocated to low income region and classes and that the productive service actually reaches them.
3. **Making the process self-sustaining:** This requires the development of appropriate skills and

implementing capacity and the presence of institution at the local, regional and national levels to ensure effective use of existing resources and to ensure effective development of the subsistence sector. Self-sustenance means, involving and reaching the rural people through development programmes.

According to Uma-Lele in Nwali et al (2014), the achievement of the above objectives involves the interaction of the following crucial variables:

- **National policies:** These include land tenure systems, commodity pricing, marketing systems, wages and interest rate structure, etc.
- **Administrative system:** These include the degree of decentralization in governmental structures.

2.1.2 Features or Characteristics of Rural Areas

The major characteristics of the rural areas are practical underdevelopment which has great manifestations in the following elements:

1. **Extreme poverty:** The rural masses are poor because they have suffered age-long neglect in the provision of infrastructural facilities that are necessary for social and economic development. The people depend mainly on subsistence agriculture, as well as on the middlemen to get their produce sold in distant markets at prices which are determined by the buyers because the goods are perishable and the rural farmers lack the facilities to store them for a long period of time. Hence, they generate low level of incomes that can hardly cater for their basic needs. This makes them to be below poverty level on yearly basis (Nwali, 2013).
2. **Malnutrition:** The bulk of goods consumed is made of carbohydrates and less protein and other food types that cannot help their body fight against diseases. The most vulnerable groups are the children who suffer from kwashiorkor and other childhood diseases. Lack of education and proper medical advices in the rural environment have contributed to poor knowledge of the type of food to consume.



3. **Prevalence of Diseases:** Poor nutrition, poor environmental sanitation, general state of poverty and lack of personal hygiene are responsible for the high incidence of communicable diseases in the rural environment.
4. **Economic exploitation:** The low standard of living and resultant high poverty level have exposed the rural masses to exploitation by the rich and educated urban elites. The labour of the rural masses is hired at low prices. They work for long hours and are paid meager wages. Even those of them who migrate to the urban centres are subjected to the same treatment as their counterparts in the rural areas.
5. **Lack of infrastructural facilities:** This is the bane for rural poverty and isolation. The rural areas are not provided with good roads and transportation system, communication, medical facilities (hospitals and clinics), educational institutions (except primary schools under ramshackle accommodations), potable water, electricity, etc. The lack of all these is putting the rural areas in a perpetual cycle of poverty.
6. **Poor housing and sanitation:** Most of the houses are made from simple materials that are less durable and attractive. The building walls are made from mud and clay, while the roofs are made of thatched grasses or bamboo leaves that are woven together in sheets. All these can easily give way under the vagaries of strong weather conditions such as heavy rainstorms or windstorms. Because of lack of pipe borne water, there is no good toilets system. Rather, simple pit latrines and open sewage disposal are common within the rural areas.
7. **Subsistence agriculture:** This is the main sector of livelihood for rural dwellers and involves the use of simple farm tools such as hoes and cutlasses. The cultivatable lands are fragmented. Using "ban and slash" methods, lack of the use of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides; highly labour intensive and low yields per hectare of cultivation. The poverty level

of the rural farmers makes it difficult for them to introduce mechanized farming and purchase the necessary inputs that can boost production.

8. **High rate of illiteracy:** Lack of educational institutions in the rural areas is responsible for high level of illiteracy among the rural people. Even where schools are located in the rural areas, there is the dearth of qualified teachers because most teachers do not want to be posted to teach in the rural environments. The reason is simply because of lack of incentives and poor infrastructural facilities.
9. **Unemployment:** A large percentage of rural populations are illiterates and have contributed to the high incidence of unemployment in the large society. And when young people migrate to the urban centres, they only go there to add to the army of the unemployed people (Nwali, 2013).

2.1.3 How Development Centres can lead to Rural Development

The development centre management and operators have the responsibility of adopting strategies for rural development that are appropriate to the specific environment. When this is done, it can:

- a. Reduce rural poverty;
- b. Increase production at rural level;
- c. Increase rural income level;
- d. Increase employment and stem rural urban migration;
- e. Provide basic rural infrastructure (roads, water, electricity, clinics, etc); and
- f. Integrate rural areas into the development plans.

2.1.4 Other Strategies Development Centres Can Use to Achieve Rural Development

1. **Agricultural development strategy:** There is the need for radical transformation of agricultural system; (land reforms, introduction of high yield seed, credit system, application of simple farm technology, etc. Agriculture relevant to the environment should be facilitated by subsidizing the input by the development centres to encourage the people to go into agriculture.



2. Mobilization of rural masses for participatory development.
3. **Erosion control:** To minimize water and wind erosion by construction of canals and planting of trees to serve as wind-breakers.
4. **Rural housing scheme:** Encourage the rural poor masses to use cheap material as well as introducing simple modern building technology.
5. **Women mobilization for rural development:** By encouraging the women groups and teaching them to engage in local production activities so that they can earn better income for self-development and sustenance.
6. **Environmental protection:** This covers aspects of environmental management such as erosion control, generation and disposal of wastes, environmental pollution control in industrial areas, mineral producing areas and forest conservation.
7. **Poverty alleviation programme:** All activities or programme put in place that would reduce unemployment and enhance income generating capability of the rural masses. Development centres should key into national poverty alleviation programmes.

2.1.6 Democratic Governance and Rural Development

The concept, democracy as a form of government that attaches much value and importance to majority participation in governance as well as other relevant decision-making processes cannot be over emphasized in the history of mankind. Though, there is no universally accepted definition of democracy like other social discourses, but for the purpose of emphasis in this chapter, some scholarly views were projected.

Democracy is historically derived from the Greek word “*demos*” meaning-people and “*kratos*” meaning-power. This implies that the legitimacy of who gets which office, when he gets it, how he gets it and even how he uses the office is determined by the people. In other words, the

authority of acquisition of power and the legitimacy of consolidating the power lies in the hands of the people. Bakare (2013), defined the concept of democracy according to Abraham Lincoln as government of the people, by the people and for the people. Agena & Odoh (2005) viewed democracy as a government that runs through consensus by the elected representatives of the people either through direct or indirect election. Huntington (1991) in Ijere (2015) established that the modern usage of the term democracy as a form of government is defined in terms of sources of authority of government, purposes served by government and the procedures for constituting government. The central procedure of democracy for Huntington is selection of leaders through competitive elections by the people they govern. This minimalist perspective is drawn from Schumpeter’s (1942) definition of democracy as a system for arriving at political decisions in which individuals acquire the power to decide by means of a competitive struggle for the people’s vote. According to Przeworski et al (1996), democracy is a system where political office is filled through regular, free and fair election between competing parties with the possibility of a winner freely assuming office. Ternande (2003) sees democracy as the political and economic empowerment of the majority of the ordinary people to participate in the decisions that has bearings on their lives, their individual and collective rights and the way in which their society is governed. This is in contrast with the practical democracy being practiced in Nigeria.

Yusif (2009) said that the concept can be summed up to be a system that emphasizes collective engagements to accomplishing the citizen’s aspirations according to the rules of the game for their common goal. It is also fundamental that through democracy, people come to make rules that would enable the political system to provide growth, fairness and equity as well as other goals that are shared in common between various ethnic and social groups. Otive (2011) said that democracy is only



meaningful if it delivers in bringing socio-economic development to the nation. It was further argued that the political freedom which forms the basis of democracy remained insignificant without commensurate socio-economic development that will uplift people from hunger, deprivations and degradations; hence, the need for people to elect leaders in order to respond to their myriads of problems bedeviling them.

2.2 Review of Empirical Literature

In a study by Onwuka (2012) titled “Contemporary Issues in Rural Development”, rural development was seen to have suffered setback due to lack of integrated approach and weak national policies on rural development. The study which adopted content analytical method expressed that up to 1976, Nigeria as a country had no rural development programme, pointing out that before then, rural development questions were subsumed in agricultural matters or in isolation as well as in experimental rural development projects or community development schemes. In this case, the farmer for instance, would have to face barrage for social, extension, health, and community workers each claiming and demanding his attention without cooperation among themselves. The major findings of the study among many others were that little attempts were made to identify and coordinate the needs of the rural people with those involved in decision making and this critically undermined rural development. It was however recommended among many other policy options that if rural development must be achieved; there should be a strong rural development institution with a strong and united self-objective, ability to pursue great and dynamic economy for the rural people as well as brilliant and full opportunities for all the citizens in the rural areas.

Also, in another study by Onwuka (2010) on “Community and Rural Development in Nigeria: An historical Discourse”, the argument for giving increased attention to rural development has since received powerful and widely accepted concern. This concern to a large extent

stemmed from the backdrop that majority of the population in a state or local government live and equally find their livelihood in the rural areas. Findings of this study among others show that the drift to the township in search of white color jobs by the rural dwellers is as a result of lack of opportunities in the rural settings due to lack of development. The study which employed content analysis as the adopted methodology advocated for a strong and viable institution to be solely saddled with the goals of ensuring development at the rural areas.

Indeed, the above reviews of Onwuka (2012) and Onwuka (2010) share the same thinking with the study of Ewuim (2010) on “Theory and Practice of Community and Rural Development”. In the study, development was identified to mean empowerment in the sense that it is only when the people are empowered that they will be able to receive the benefits of development and in turn, affect their societies positively.

The content analytical study which employed deceptive survey views rural development as the process embarked upon by the government or its agencies in improving the living standard of the people through the provision of basic necessities of life. Findings among others revealed that rural development is carried out because majority of people are living in the rural areas and also because the rural people are also part of the national development plans.

Recommendations include; enhancing asset ownership of the poor by improving access to land, water and livestock; identifying new sources of growth that will increase the income of the rural people as well as facilitating private sector involvement in the process of developing the rural areas.

Furthermore, in a study by Nwali, et al (2014) on the “Imperatives of Development Centres Creation for Rural Development in Ebonyi State”, the study vividly captured the underlying importance of Development Centres for rural development in Ebonyi State, standing on the objective of examining how Development Centres



creation related to development of the rural communities in Ebonyi State. Anchoring on Schumpeters, Adam Smith and David Richardo's modernization theory, it was found that since development appears in stages, the times in which rural development would be given priority attention has come. Other findings of the study revealed that despite the pragmatic idea that underlined Development Centres creation in Ebonyi State, the elegant idea was fraught with political influence as the regime in power often resorts to using Development Centres as patronage to political loyalists at the detriment of the expected rural development. The study therefore recommended that Development Centre Coordinators should be given a target to achieve in respect to development of their areas of jurisdiction and the need for constant training and retraining of the Management Committee members and staff of the centre for effective rural development.

However, in a study by Izuogu (2013) on rural broadcasting on rural development, he says that rural development is a process of social change geared towards the expansion of the human mind and increase skills for the creating of opportunities; leading to the potentials of the rural dwellers. Creation of development centres will create awareness to the rural dwellers, and nearness of government to them. It will create job opportunities and harvesting of potentials in whatever they do. Rural development entails improving the living standards of the mass of low-income citizens residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Descriptive Survey Design was adopted for this study as it allows the researchers to collect a large amount of data in a relatively short period

3.2 Area of the Study

This study was carried out in Ebonyi State covering selected Development Centres in the state and focuses on Imperative of Development Centres for Rural

Development in Ebonyi State: A study of selected centres (2007-2017) Ebonyi State was created in October, 1996 by the military regime of General Sani Abacha. Before then, there exists some local government areas which were part of the old Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Abia States, but were inherited into the state respectively. Presently, the state is made up of 13 local government areas and 64 rural Development Centres.

3.3 Sources of Data

Basically, the data for this study were sourced from the primary source data. Data from the primary source was obtained through the use of copies of the questionnaire which were administered to the respondents. The questionnaire was researchers generated. Also, more materials were be generated from secondary sources and they include materials from journals, periodicals, seminar papers and textbooks, local government approved financial estimates, government publications, bulletin and the internet.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study was basically the questionnaire which was prepared in close-ended type of questions and were administered to the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: the first part was concerned mainly with the demographic information from the respondents while the second part aimed at eliciting the necessary information on Imperative of Development Centres for Rural Development in Ebonyi State: A study of selected centres (2007-2017). The questionnaire was distributed in two days with the help of a lady, Mrs. Ngozi. She was the person that collected the remaining that we could not gather the first day. The researcher later went back to collect it from her. Mrs. Ngozi was of great help to me.

3.5 Population of the Study

The population of the study was made up of all residents in the selected Development Centres from the 3 out of the 13 local government areas in Ebonyi State. The researcher selected one local government from the 3 senatorial zones



to enable her study the Development Centres therein. The selected three (3) local governments have eleven (11) Development Centres and they are Ezza South Local Government from Ebonyi Central Senatorial Zone with four Development Centres which are: Ezza South, Ezza South West, Ezza South East and Ezzama Development Centres; Ebonyi Local Government from Ebonyi North Senatorial Zone with four Development Centres which are: Ebonyi, Mbeke, Ebia and Ozibo Development Centres and Ivo Local Government from Ebonyi South Senatorial Zone also with three Development Centres to include: Ivo, Akaeze and Echiele Development Centres.

Thus, the population of the study comprising the three (3) Local Governments is the NPC 2006 population figure of 193,404 which when split are:

Ezza South LGA	67,252
Ebonyi LGA	66,838
Ivo LGA	59,314
Total	193,404

3.6 Determination of Sample Size

The technique used in the determination of the sample size was that of Taro Yameni (1964) who had it that in determination of sample size, the formular below should apply:-

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

Where N = Population

I = Constant

e = Minimum error in calculation (0.05)

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

$$n = \frac{193404}{1 + 193404(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{193404}{1 + 193404(0.0025)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{193404}{1 + 483.51}$$

$$n = \frac{193404}{484.51}$$

$$n = 399.1744$$

$$n = 399$$

Thus, a total of **399** persons were selected as the sample size of the study. Accordingly, the total population will be divided according to Development Centres from the 3 local governments selected from the 3Geo-political zones of Ebonyi State in line with their various population ratios using Bowler's formular for proportionate allocation.

The Bowler's formular is represented thus:

$$\frac{N_i \times n}{N}$$

$$N$$

$$n_i = \frac{N_i \times n}{N}$$

$$N$$

Where ni = proportional allocation size of each zone

n = sample size

Ni = population of each zone selected

N = total population of Ebonyi State

$$n_i = \frac{N_i \times n}{N}$$

$$N$$

Ezza South DC	-	36
Ezza South West DC	-	37
Ezza South East DC	-	37
Ezzama DC	-	36
Ebonyi DC	-	37
Mbeke DC	-	36
Ebia DC	-	37
Ozibo DC	-	36
Ivo DC	-	37
Akaeze DC	-	36
Echiele DC	-	37
Total		399

3.7 Sampling Technique



The technique adopted for this study was the multi stage sampling technique. Multi stage sampling technique is a sampling technique useful in selecting research samples as they appear in stages. The researcher adopted this method because of the large magnitude of the population under study. At the first stage, a population of the 3 selected local government area of Ebonyi State according to geo-political zones were selected. In another stage, the 3 LGAs will be stratified into Development Centres which made up the 3 LGAs and thereafter proportionate allocation were used to represent each of the Development Centres. This is done to ensure that all relevant elements to this research would be included.

3.8 Validity of the Research Instrument

Content and Face validity was established on the instrument by presenting it to experts in measurement and evaluation in the Faculty of Education, Ebonyi State University for professional evaluation. The correction identified by the experts where incorporated.

3.9 Reliability of the Instrument

To ensure reliability of instrument for this study, the researchers adopted pilot test by administering the questionnaire on the same group of respondents at different point in time; to ensure that after collation and analyzed, the result would co-relate to be the same, thus, ensuring reliability by test-re-test.

3.10 Methods of Data Analysis

In order to test the hypotheses and establish the degree of dependence or independence of the variables under consideration, the researcher adopted Pearson Chi-square as the statistical tool for analysis in this study. The results of the returned copies of the questionnaire were captured in Microsoft Excel and exported to Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis and interpretation. The results were later used to draw deductions and conclusions on the subject matter of the study in the concluding sections

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation

Table 1: Development centres in Ebonyi state were created to further bring government services closer to the people through provision of amenities such as pipe-borne water, rural electrification, clinics among others

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	149	39.8
Agree	105	28.1
Disagree	69	18.4
Strongly Disagree	51	13.6
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 1 above, it can be observed that 149 (39.8%) respondents strongly agreed, 105 (28.1%) agreed, 69 (18.4%) disagreed while, 51 (13.6%) strongly disagreed. This means that development centres in Ebonyi state were created to further bring government services closer to the people through provision of amenities such as pipe-borne water, rural electrification, clinics among others.

Table 2: Political instability arising from frequent changes of coordinators hinders successful implementation of development programmes in the state

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	170	45.5
Agree	92	24.6
Disagree	73	19.5
Strongly Disagree	39	10.4
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 2 above, it can be observed that 170 (45.5%) respondents strongly agreed, 92 (24.6%) agreed, 73 (19.5%) disagreed while, 39 (10.4%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political instability arising from frequent changes of coordinators hinders successful implementation of development programmes in the state.



Table 3: There has been instability of tenure of development centre coordinators between 2015 and 2020 in Ebonyi State

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	201	53.7
Agree	110	29.4
Disagree	43	11.5
Strongly Disagree	20	5.3
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 3 above, it can be observed that 201 (53.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 110 (29.4%) agreed, 43 (11.5%) disagreed while, 20 (5.3%) strongly disagreed. This means that there has been instability of tenure of development centre coordinators between 2015 and 2020 in Ebonyi State.

Table 4: Conflicts between the state government on one hand and between and among the coordinators across the development centres on the other hand, undermine efforts of sustainable implementation of grassroots development programmes.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	188	50.3
Agree	127	34.0
Disagree	33	8.8
Strongly Disagree	26	7.0
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 4 above, it can be observed that 188 (50.3%) respondents strongly agreed, 127 (34%) agreed, 33 (8.8%) disagreed while, 26 (7%) strongly disagreed. This means that Conflicts between the state government on one hand and between and among the coordinators across the development centres on the other hand, undermine efforts of sustainable implementation of grassroots development programmes.

Table 5: Appointment of coordinators by the government causes principal-agent relationship and often slows down the pace of political and socio-economic development of the rural areas.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	100	26.7
Agree	164	43.9
Disagree	67	17.9
Strongly Disagree	43	11.5
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 5 above, it can be observed that 100 (26.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 164 (43.9%) agreed, 67 (17.9%) disagreed while, 43 (11.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Appointment of coordinators by the government causes principal-agent relationship and often slows down the pace of political and socio-economic development of the rural areas.

Table 6: Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect rural development in the state

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	207	55.3
Agree	148	39.6
Disagree	12	3.2
Strongly Disagree	7	1.9
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 6 above, it can be observed that 207 (55.3%) respondents strongly agreed, 148 (39.6%) agreed, 12 (3.2%) disagreed while, 7 (1.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect rural development in the state.



Table 7: Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affects policy making in rural development in the state.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	171	45.7
Agree	118	31.6
Disagree	63	16.8
Strongly Disagree	22	5.9
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 7 above, it can be observed that 171 (45.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 118 (31.6%) agreed, 63 (16.8%) disagreed while, 32 (5.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affects policy making in rural development in the state.

Table 8: Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect implementation programmes in rural development in the state

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	229	61.2
Agree	104	27.8
Disagree	14	3.7
Strongly Disagree	27	7.2
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 8 above, it can be observed that 229 (61.2%) respondents strongly agreed, 104 (27.8%) agreed, 14 (3.7%) disagreed while, 27 (7.2%) strongly disagreed. This means Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect implementation programmes in rural development in the state.

Table 9: Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce mobilization of rural population for self-help in rural development in the state

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	123	32.9
Agree	230	61.5
Disagree	15	4.0
Strongly Disagree	6	1.6
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 9 above, it can be observed that 123 (32.9%) respondents strongly agreed, 230 (61.5%) agreed, 15 (4%) disagreed while, 6 (1.6%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce mobilization of rural population for self-help in rural development in the state.

Table 10: Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce cooperation in joint economic development in rural areas in the state

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	184	49.2
Agree	99	26.5
Disagree	57	15.2
Strongly Disagree	34	9.1
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 10 above, it can be observed that 184 (49.2%) respondents strongly agreed, 99 (26.5%) agreed, 57 (15.2%) disagreed while, 34 (9.1%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce cooperation in joint economic development in rural areas in the state.



Table 11: Funding of development centres will promote rural development in Ebonyi State

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	111	29.7
Agree	158	42.2
Disagree	34	9.1
Strongly Disagree	71	19.0
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 11 above, it can be observed that 111 (29.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 158 (42.2%) agreed, 34 (9.1%) disagreed while, 71 (19%) strongly disagreed. This means that Funding of development centres will promote rural development in Ebonyi State.

Table 12: Abandonment of projects such as feeder roads across development centres in Ebonyi State will be reduced through adequate funding

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	116	31.0
Agree	155	41.4
Disagree	60	16.0
Strongly Disagree	43	11.5
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 12 above, it can be observed that 116 (31%) respondents strongly agreed, 155 (41.4%) agreed, 60 (16%) disagreed while, 43 (11.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Abandonment of projects such as feeder roads across development centres in Ebonyi State will be reduced through adequate funding.

Table 13: Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate skilled-manpower for community development projects in the rural areas.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	224	59.9
Agree	93	24.9
Disagree	44	11.8
Strongly Disagree	13	3.5
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 13 above, it can be observed that 224 (59.9%) respondents strongly agreed, 93 (24.9%) agreed, 44 (11.8%) disagreed while, 13 (3.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate skilled-manpower for community development projects in the rural areas.

Table 14: Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate healthcare facilities for community development projects in the rural areas.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	267	71.4
Agree	83	22.2
Disagree	22	5.9
Strongly Disagree	2	0.5
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 14 above, it can be observed that 269 (71.4%) respondents strongly agreed, 83 (22.2%) agreed, 22 (5.9%) disagreed while, 2 (5.9%) strongly disagreed. This means Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate healthcare facilities for community development projects in the rural areas.

Table 15: Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate primary education for community development projects in the rural areas

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	125	45.6
Agree	70	25.5
Disagree	41	15.0
Strongly Disagree	38	13.9
Total	374	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the table 15 above, it can be observed that 125 (45.6%) respondents strongly agreed, 70 (25.5%) agreed, 41 (15%) disagreed while, 38 (13.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate primary education for community development projects in the rural areas.



4.2 Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

H_{A1}: Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors do not affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

H₀₁: Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

Using the Chi-square statistical tool, we have that:

The chi-square formula:

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(O-E)}{E}$$

X² = Chi-square statistics

O = observed frequency

E = expected value or frequency

Σ = summation

Table 16: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	48.404 ^a	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	47.253	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	18.768	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	1048		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 18.00.

Critical Value

Degree of freedom (v) = (r-1) (c-1)

Where: r = Number of rows = 4

c = Number of columns = 4

v = (4-1) (4-1)

= (3) (3)

= 9

The level of significance = 0.5

Then, X² 0.5:9 = 7.82

Decision

Since the value of the calculated chi-square (48.40) is greater than the critical value (21.03), the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternate hypothesis was upheld.

Hence, it was concluded that Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors has affected rural development in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the p-value of the chi-square 0.00 was less than the level of 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors will affected rural development in Ebonyi State.

Hypothesis Two

H1: Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

HO: Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators do not affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

Using the Chi-square statistical tool, we have that:

The chi-square formula:

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(O-E)}{E}$$

X² = Chi-square statistics

O = Observed frequency

E = Expected value or frequency

Σ = Summation

Table 17: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	24.038 ^a	9	.004
Likelihood Ratio	25.909	9	.002
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.031	1	.082
N of Valid Cases	1048		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 22.75.

Critical Value

Degree of freedom (v) = (r-1) (c-1)

Where: r = Number of rows = 4

c = Number of columns = 4

v = (4-1) (4-1)

= (3) (3)

= 9



The level of significance = 0.5
 Then, $X^2_{0.5:9} = 7.82$

Decision

Since the value of the calculated chi-square (48.40) is greater than the critical value (21.03), the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternate hypothesis was upheld. Hence, it was concluded that Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the p-value of the chi-square 0.00 was less than the level of 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

Hypotheses Three

H1: Funding of Development Centres affect rural development in Ebonyi State.

H0: Funding of Development Centres do not affect rural development in Ebonyi State

Using the Chi-square statistical tool, we have that:

The chi-square formula:

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(O-E)}{E}$$

X^2 = Chi-square statistics

O = observed frequency

E = expected value or frequency

Σ = summation

Table 18: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.630 ^a	9	.005
Likelihood Ratio	23.094	9	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.013	1	.083
N of Valid Cases	1048		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 24.00.

Critical Value

Degree of freedom (v) = (r-1) (c-1)

Where: r = Number of rows = 4

c = Number of columns = 4

$v = (4-1) (4-1)$

= (3) (3)

= 9

The level of significance = 0.5

Then, $X^2_{0.5:9} = 7.82$

Decision

Since the value of the calculated chi-square (48.40) is greater than the critical value (21.03), the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternate hypothesis was upheld. Hence, it was concluded that Funding of Development Centres affected rural development in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the p-value of the chi-square 0.00 was less than the level of 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Funding of Development Centres have affected rural development in Ebonyi State.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

Effects of Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors on rural development in Ebonyi State.

From the table 8 above, it can be observed that 149 (39.8%) respondents strongly agreed, 105 (28.1%) agreed, 69 (18.4%) disagreed while, 51 (13.6%) strongly disagreed. This means that development centres in Ebonyi state were created to further bring government services closer to the people through provision of amenities such as pipe-borne water, rural electrification, clinics among others. From the table 9 above, it can be observed that 170 (45.5%) respondents strongly agreed, 92 (24.6%) agreed, 73 (19.5%) disagreed while, 39 (10.4%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political instability arising from frequent changes of coordinators hinders successful implementation of development programmes in the state.



From the table 10 above, it can be observed that 201 (53.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 110 (29.4%) agreed, 43 (11.5%) disagreed while, 20 (5.3%) strongly disagreed. This means that there has been instability of tenure of development centre coordinators between 2015 and 2020 in Ebonyi State. From the table 11 above, it can be observed that 188 (50.3%) respondents strongly agreed, 127 (34%) agreed, 33 (8.8%) disagreed while, 26 (7%) strongly disagreed. This means that Conflicts between the state government on one hand and between and among the coordinators across the development centres on the other hand, undermine efforts of sustainable implementation of grassroots development programmes. From the table 12 above, it can be observed that 100 (26.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 164 (43.9%) agreed, 67 (17.9%) disagreed while, 43 (11.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Appointment of coordinators by the government causes principal-agent relationship and often slows down the pace of political and socio-economic development of the rural areas.

Effects of political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators on rural development in Ebonyi State.

From the table 13 above, it can be observed that 207 (55.3%) respondents strongly agreed, 148 (39.6%) agreed, 12 (3.2%) disagreed while, 7 (1.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect rural development in the state. From the table 14 above, it can be observed that 171 (45.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 118 (31.6%) agreed, 63 (16.8%) disagreed while, 32 (5.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affects policy making in rural development in the state. From the table 15 above, it can be observed that 229 (61.2%) respondents strongly agreed, 104 (27.8%) agreed, 14 (3.7%) disagreed while, 27 (7.2%) strongly disagreed. This means Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect implementation programmes in rural development in the state. From the table 16 above, it

can be observed that 123 (32.9%) respondents strongly agreed, 230 (61.5%) agreed, 15 (4%) disagreed while, 6 (1.6%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce mobilization of rural population for self-help in rural development in the state. From the table 17 above, it can be observed that 184 (49.2%) respondents strongly agreed, 99 (26.5%) agreed, 57 (15.2%) disagreed while, 34 (9.1%) strongly disagreed. This means that Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators reduce cooperation in joint economic development in rural areas in the state

Effects of Funding of Development Centres on rural development in Ebonyi State.

From the table 18 above, it can be observed that 111 (29.7%) respondents strongly agreed, 158 (42.2%) agreed, 34 (9.1%) disagreed while, 71 (19%) strongly disagreed. This means that Funding of development centres will promote rural development in Ebonyi State. From the table above, it can be observed that 116 (31%) respondents strongly agreed, 155 (41.4%) agreed, 60 (16%) disagreed while, 43 (11.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Abandonment of projects such as feeder roads across development centres in Ebonyi State will be reduced through adequate funding. From the table 20 above, it can be observed that 224 (59.9%) respondents strongly agreed, 93 (24.9%) agreed, 44 (11.8%) disagreed while, 13 (3.5%) strongly disagreed. This means that Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate skilled-manpower for community development projects in the rural areas. From the table 21 above, it can be observed that 269 (71.4%) respondents strongly agreed, 83 (22.2%) agreed, 22 (5.9%) disagreed while, 2 (5.9%) strongly disagreed. This means Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate healthcare facilities for community development projects in the rural areas. From the table above, it can be observed that 125 (45.6%) respondents strongly agreed, 70 (25.5%) agreed, 41 (15%) disagreed while, 38 (13.9%) strongly disagreed. This means that Adequate funding influences consistent



provision of adequate primary education for community development projects in the rural areas

4.3 Conclusion

The study concluded that appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors affects rural development in Ebonyi State. Political instability arising from frequent changes of coordinators hinders successful implementation of development programmes in the state. Appointment of coordinators by the government causes principal-agent relationship and often slows down the pace of political and socio-economic development of the rural areas. Political tussles between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators affect rural development in Ebonyi State. Political tussles between chairmen and coordinator affects policy making in rural development in the state. Political tussles between chairmen and coordinators affect implementation programmes in rural development in the state. And funding of Development Centres affects rural development in Ebonyi State. Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate skilled-manpower for community development projects in the rural areas. Adequate funding influences consistent provision of adequate healthcare facilities for community development projects in the rural areas.

4.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommended that:

1. Appointment of Development Centre Coordinators by Ebonyi State Governors should be based on competence in order to promote rural development in Ebonyi State.
2. There should be cordial relationship between local Government Chairmen and development Centre Coordinators to facilitate rural development in Ebonyi State.
3. There is a need for adequate funding of Development Centres to promote rural development in Ebonyi State.

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