



EFFECT OF THE STATE JOINT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

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Keyword: Rural Development, State Joint Local Government Account, Healthcare Services, Rural Road, Educational Service

Abstract: The study determined the Effects of State Joint Local Government Account on Rural Development in Enugu State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to: determine the effects of the State Joint Local Government Account on health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria; find out how State Local Government Account Policy affected rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria and Ascertain the effects of State Joint Local Government account on improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions and hypotheses. The study adopted survey design. The researcher made use of primary and secondary data sources. The population of the study was 644,670. The sample size of 400 was determined through the use Taro Yamane formular. Chi-square test was used to test the hypotheses. The finding revealed that State Joint Local Government Account did not significantly impact on health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria; that State Local Government Account policy had positively impacted on rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria. This implies that rural roads are more accessible with the road maintenance of the Local Government authority and that State Joint Local Government Account had not significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. This fulfilled the aim of the joint account system which is to drive good governance and effective service delivery, and overall grassroots development. The study recommended the abolition of the state joint local government account law or a major review of some of its provisions especially sections 162(6) and (8) to allow the local governments access their federal allocations directly and improve in the delivery of services to the rural people.

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Introduction

The Guidelines for Local Government Reform (1976) recognize local government as "the third tier of governmental activity in Nigeria", noting that "local governments should do precisely what the word government implies". This encompasses service delivery, which requires the provision of basic social services, initiation and execution of specific development projects in communities, and complementing the activities of the federal and state governments at the grassroots. The 1976 reform was for state governments to have a statutory allocation relationship with their respective local governments. Further, as a means of implementing fiscal federalism at the third tier, the State and Local Government Joint Account was introduced in 1999 following the re-inception of democratic governance. This joint account system initially came into being in 1981 through an Act of the National Assembly, through its implementation could not be effected immediately due to the subsequent military incursions in Nigerian politics. The Constitution provides in Section 162 (5) that "the amount standing to the credit of local government councils in the Federation Account shall be allocated to the states for the benefit of their local government councils on such terms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the National Assembly". Furthermore, "each state shall maintain a specific account to be called State-Joint Local Government Account into which shall be paid all allocations to the local government councils of the state from the Federation Account and government of the state" (Section, 162:6). Further, sub-section (7) of the Constitution states that each state should pay local government councils in its area of jurisdiction a proportion of its total revenue

as prescribed by the National Assembly (the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999).

The operation of the State Joint Local Government Account came into place in 1979 arising from the 1976 local government reform (Ojuegbeli and Ojoh, 2014). The practice of State Joint Local Government Account in Nigeria is made more functional with the enactment of the Local Government Revenue Allocation Monitoring Act of 2005. The Act states among others that each state of the federation shall establish a body to be known as the State Joint Local Government Account Committee as chaired by the commissioner or any other officer charged with the responsibility of local government in the state. The establishment of the Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) and State Joint Local Government Allocation and Account Committee (JAAC) by the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria aptly intended to position the local government as the third tier of government and as well for the aggregation and distribution of local government revenue among local government areas in a particular state (Agbani and Ugwueze, 2014). To this end, the thinking of every average Nigerian is that the implementation of the State Joint Local Government and the 2005 local government revenue monitoring Act would enhance the performance of local government operations in Nigeria. It is against this background that the study examined the Effects of the State Joint Local Government account on Rural Development in Enugu State.

Statement of the Problem

The State and Local Government Council ensure rural development due to their closeness to the grassroots than the Federal Government and as such 1999 Constitution, section 8 ensures the establishment, structures, composition and finance of the



councils. However, with the introduction of the Joint account, the Enugu State government continue to exert much pressure, on local governments by denying them access to the financial allocation through frequent deductions from their monthly allocations.

Consequently, this issue of State Joint local government account is believed to be the factor that led to the inability of the local governments in Enugu State to provide the essential services at the local government level. Local government administration in Enugu State has been faced with a series of developmental and economic challenges such as the provision of healthcare services, rural road maintenance and educational services and non-disbursement of money by the state government, which have rendered the councils incapacitated in the discharge their constitutional mandates. This has been traced to the unjust treatment and annexation of local government revenues by state governors in the name of State Joint Local Government Accounts. This policy falls into the hands of aggressors to the fact that the objective of the joint account became overpowered as the supervision of the account by the state governments provided an opportunity for mishandling the account. The local government in Enugu State suffered from the state government's injustice through deduction, delay in the release of allocation to councils and diversion of funds into private use, the situation that led to so many administrative challenges, especially in the provision of services delivery.

If the objective of the State Joint Local Government Account is not maintained as stipulated by the constitution, it will result in poor service delivery to the rural communities by the local government. The alleged illegal deductions and misappropriation of local government

statutory allocations and deliberate delay in the disbursement of funds by the state governments, negatively affect the volume of service delivery in the local governments. It results in low-level socio-economic development across the rural communities, thereby undermining the ideals of the 1976 Local Government Reform and the 1999 State and Local Government Joint Account system. This study, therefore, sought to ascertain the Effect of the State Joint Local Government account on Rural Development in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study was to determine the Effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on Rural Development in Enugu State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i. Determine the effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria;
- ii. Find out how State Joint Local Government Account Policy affected rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria;
- iii. Ascertain the effect of the State Joint Local Government account on improved educational services in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised:

- i. What is the effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria?
- ii. How does State Joint Local Government Account Policy affect the rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria?
- iii. What is the effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on improved educational services in Enugu State, Nigeria?

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Statement of Hypotheses

The following research null hypotheses were formulated:

- i. State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly impacted health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria.
- ii. State Joint Local Government Account has no significant effect on rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria.
- iii. The State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly improved educational services in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

The study focused on the Effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on Rural Development in Enugu State, Nigeria. The study sought to examine how the application of the State Joint Local Government Account Policy affected rural development and the supply of basic social amenities in Enugu State, Nigeria. The geographical coverage was Enugu State's three Senatorial zones- Enugu North, Enugu East and Enugu West; one Local government was selected from each senatorial zone - Enugu South, Udi and Igbo Etiti. These local governments were based on the status of the local governments viz: urban, semi-urban and rural local government. The period covered by this study was from 2016 to 2020.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Conceptual Review

State-Joint Local Government Account

State Joint Local Government Account (SJLGA) is simply defined, as an account specially created and maintained by every state government in Nigeria which embodies the payment of statutory allocation to local government from the federation account and for the payment of their own (That is state's) 10% Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

SJLGA's tenets entail that, it is maintained on behalf of the local governments by the State. Two forms of money are being paid into this account for the use/credit of Local Governments of a state. These include: the statutory allocation from the federation account to local government and the state's 10% Internally generated revenue. That is all the monies internally procured in a state, its 10% will be paid into this account to be allocated among local governments within the state (Jude & Mustapha, 2017).

Moreover, section 162 (6) of the 1999 Constitution stipulates that every state shall have a specific account to be called "State Joint Local Government Account (SJLGA)" into which all allocations to the Local Government Councils of the State from the Federation Account and the Government of the State shall be paid in. This section does not allow the direct payment of statutory allocation to the local governments but acknowledges the state as the supervising agent that oversees the distribution, disbursement and management of the funds by the local government.

Local government joint account also provided for the modalities of its operations to make sure financial self-control and the fact that no local government is politically relegated in favour of other local governments by the state government as the supervisory body (Eme & Ewuim, 2013). Section 7 and 8 of the 1999 constitution provides the provision for the creation of state and local government joint account and placed the local government under state control, this made the local government not able to exercise the function assigned to them like provision of social amenities such as distribution of potable water, provision of street light among many others due to uniform account operation and



constant deduction by the state government (Admin, 2015).

From the foregoing, the idea of creating local government is to ensure that government functions and duties are felt at the grassroots and to also ensure the active participation of the local people in their affairs for nobody knows their aspirations and needs better than themselves.

Rural Development

The term rural development has different dimensions. It means different things to different people; each author tries to define it according to his educational background (Mayowa &Iyanda, 2014). In a nutshell, the concept of Rural Development is multi-dimensional. According to Panda and Majumba, Rural Development “*generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas*” (Panda &Majumda, 2013). Rural Development can also be defined as, *the integrated approach to food production as well as physical, social and institutional infrastructural provisions with an ultimate goal of bringing about both quantitative and qualitative changes which result in an improved living standard for the rural population*’ (Mayowa &Iyanda, 2014). The United Nations Agency for Social and Economic Development defines rural development as “*the quantitative change or upliftment in the standard of people in the rural areas, brought about through an integrated approach, by both government and non-governmental agencies and the people themselves*.”

Rural development is a many-sided process or a multi-dimensional process involving the totality of the rural man and his environment. In essence, development in this context entails developing the rural human person as

well as his environment. Emphasizing the aspect of

human development as an essential part of rural development, Mustapha (1989) notes that rural development implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with daily tasks of their lives and with changes consequent upon it. It is perhaps, in this direction, that Ele (2006) posits that it is not enough to provide for the rural people; they should be enabled to develop themselves and their environment. The foregoing entails that development can only be meaningfully achieved when

the population becomes agents of their development. The development requirement of the

rural areas should, therefore, be multi-dimensional. Rural development from this integrated perspective is defined by Abonyi and Nnamani (2011) thus;

“Rural development is multidimensional improvement in the existential characteristics of the ruralities in ways amenable to their integration within the parameters of improved national life and their ability to contribute to the positive building of the latter. The foregoing exposition points to the fact that rural development essentially should entail a deliberately planned change in all aspects of the rural communities to attain the desired improvement in all aspects of their life”.

Affordable Health Care Services

A health system, also sometimes referred to as a health care system, is the organization of people, institutions, and resources that deliver health care services to meet the health needs of target populations. A formal structure for a defined population, whose finance, management, scope, and content are defined by law and regulations (Tolu, 2014). It provides for services to be delivered to people



to contribute to their health...delivered in defined settings, such as homes, educational institutions, workplaces, public places, communities, hospitals, and clinics. A health system consists of all organizations, people, and actions whose primary intent is to promote, restore, or maintain health. This includes efforts to influence determinants of health as well as more direct health-improving activities. Therefore, affordable healthcare is meant to make health care accessible and affordable to all (Nkwagu & Adedoyin, 2017).

Rural road Maintenance Services

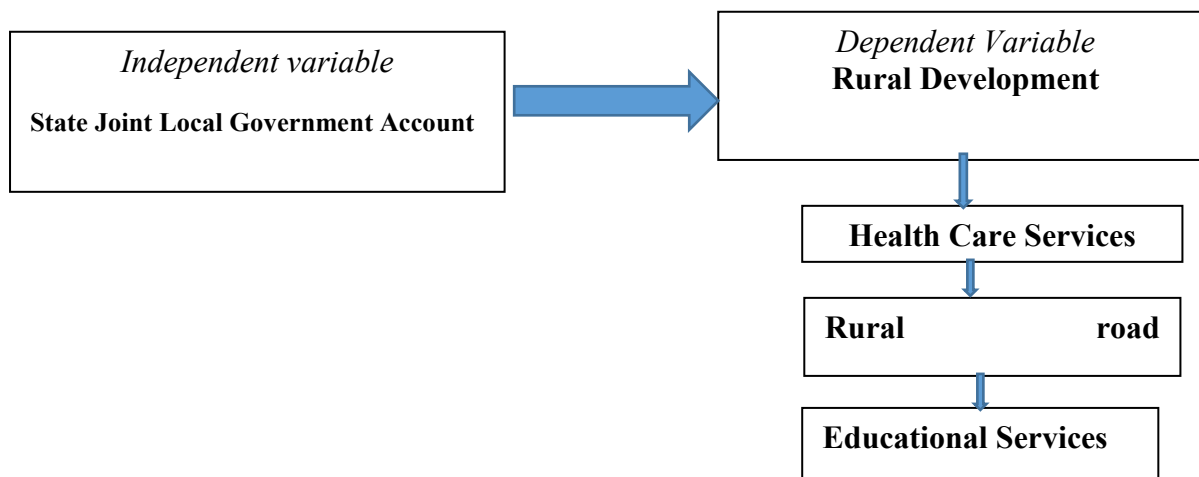
Rural road maintenance services are all efforts put in place that is geared towards putting in good shape road networks, especially in the rural communities. Such a system should halt road network deterioration and ensure that financial, material and human investments are made in a manner that maintains the quality and value of the assets and, in addition, improve the network to the demands and priorities of the users (Akhakpe, Fatile & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2012). Road deterioration due to lack of maintenance has become a growing issue in several developing countries. Rural roads are often treated as the last link of the transport network. Despite this, they often form the most important link in terms of providing access for the rural population. Their permanent or seasonal sense will act as a crucial factor in terms of the access of rural communities to basic services such as education, primary health care, water supply,

local markets, and economic opportunities. The basic objective of road maintenance is implicit in the word itself. It is done to ensure that the road that has been constructed or improved, is maintained in its original condition. It is accepted that over the life of the road it will deteriorate due to factors with which maintenance activities cannot deal. Nevertheless, maintenance is intended to slow down this deterioration and should begin on the first day after the road improvement works are completed (Okafor & Ijeoma, 2019).

Educational Services

Educational services mean classes, programs, activities or other services designed to provide an appropriate education to a student determined to need special education or to a student not determined to need special education. Educational services can be explained as the training or instructions given on different subjects. Institutions giving these services on different subjects can be training and coaching centres, colleges, schools, and universities (Nwodo & Offu, 2019). The services are provided by instructors or teachers, who teach, supervise, explain, demonstrate, and provide direct learning. The instructions are given in different ways like in a workplace, educational institution, or home. These teachers have set skills and qualities. The mediums used to impart educational services are direct contact, electronic or distance learning methods, television, or the internet. The instructors providing such services can use the simulation method or simulators to give training (Oluwatobi, 2019).

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



Source: Author's conceptualization, 2022.

Theoretical Framework

Efficiency Service Delivery Theory

The theory upon which the study is anchored in the Efficiency Service Delivery theory which was propounded by William Mackenzie in 1954. The proponent of this theory was of the view that the principal focus of Local Government should be the provision of efficient services to the people in the rural areas and it must be judged by its success in providing services up to a standard measured by a national inspectorate.

The William Mackenzie States that the service delivery to the local government is expected to pre-occupy the resources of the Local Government. Local Government is the closest to grassroots and should provide certain services, more efficiently than the State or Federal Government. The brain behind the State Joint Local Government Account is to provide Basic Avenue through which Local Governments will access the statutory allocation accruing directly from Federation Account to provide some services to the rural people. And the performance of Local Government Councils depends on the Federal Allocations and State Governors for

the release of funds from State Joint Local Government Account (SJLGAs), grants and Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) for efficient satisfaction of the needs of the rural dwellers but the funds meant for Local Government Councils have been diverted to other projects by the State governments which was not originally planned, left with little money to execute projects that would boost efficient service delivery to the people at the locality.

The relevance of this theory to this study is that it will provide an insight into understanding that, the traditional aim of creating a Local Government Joint Account needs to be properly practised, to financially empower Local Government Councils in providing efficient service delivery in the areas like health, education, infrastructural facilities, social and basic amenities to the rural dwellers.

Empirical Review

Okafor and Ijeoma (2019) conducted a study on the Influence of the State-Local Government Joint Account system on public service delivery in Nigeria: a case study of Awgu Local Government Area. Using primary and secondary methods of data collection with



a focus on content and descriptive analysis. The findings showed that this relationship negatively affected the fiscal capacity of the council in the period under review to deliver effective public services to the various communities that make up the area. This was due to cases of illegal deductions, withholding of council funds and refusal to remit a statutory 10% of the total revenue of the states to local councils.

Nwodo and Offu (2019) examined the State Joint Local Government Account and Rural Development in Nigeria's Fourth Republic (1999-2019): A Study of Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area, Enugu State. The data for the study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Its content was analyzed qualitatively. The method of data analysis employed here is known as Content Analysis Approach. The findings revealed that the implementation of SJLGA negatively affected rural development in Igbo-Etiti.

Usman, Ismail and Samso (2019). Focused on assessing the Administrative Challenges, the Use of State and Local Government Joint Account in Zaria Local Government. Thus, thematic analysis, informal discussion and observation were employed in the data analysis. It was observed that a greedier and selfish way of handling this account has been strategized by the state government in a manner that local government officials have little or no say in the management of their account. The state government is desperate in the use of this account employing all sorts of formulas to continue deducting local government funds and painfully without contributing its share to the account.

Ayogu, Okagu & Ogbe (2018) appraised the State/Local Government Joint Account and Local Government Administration in Nigeria. Data for the study were generated from secondary sources. The study found that the

state/local government account system hinders effective administration in local governments. The fund appropriated to local governments from the federation account was mismanaged by the state government through several means which include illicit deductions, diversion and delay of the allocation of the councils and undue engagement of local governments in partnership projects.

Omodero, Ekwe & Ihendinihu (2018). investigated the impact of internally generated revenue (IGR) on the economic development of Nigeria. The study made use of an ex-post facto research design. The statistical tool used for the data analysis was the multi-regression and t-test for the test of hypotheses. The findings of the study revealed that TIGR, SIGR and LIGR have a robust and significant positive impact on RGDP, while FGIR also indicated a positive and significant influence on RGDP. There was an existence of a high correlation between the dependent and independent variables. The study concluded that the positive impact of IGR is not out of place but the physical evidence is lacking.

Nkwagu and Adedoyin (2017) examined the effect of State Joint Local government account practices on the performance of Local Government councils in Ebonyi State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The data generated was presented and analyzed using tables and F-test, while the hypotheses formulated were tested using the binary logistic regression technique. Findings of the study had it that the timely release of monies from the State Joint Local Government Account to Local Government councils significantly affected the performance of local government councils in Ebonyi State. Equally, the non-interference of the State government on the monies at the credit of the State Joint Local Government Account significantly affect the performance of Local Government



Councils in Ebonyi State. The findings further had it that fair distribution of monies at the credit of the State Joint Local Government Account significantly affected the performance of local government councils in Ebonyi State.

Odalonu (2015) examined the challenges confronting local government administration inefficient and effective social service delivery: The Nigerian Experience. Secondary data was used for data analysis while regression analysis was used for hypothesis testing. The finding of the study revealed that lack of funds and interference of State government are the major constraints to local government service delivery.

Nwogwugwu and Olusesi (2015) carried out a study on the operation of State local government joint accounts and financial autonomy of local government in Nigeria's fourth republic. The study observed that the wrong arrangement of funds to local government is a result of the quasi-federal political system which characterized the domination of lower government by the superior. The study made use of a descriptive survey design. The finding of the study further showed that there was evidence of undue access and mandatory deductions from the joint account by the State government.

Murana, (2015) examined the Local Government Finance in Nigeria: A Case Study of Iwo Local Government Area of Osun State to examine the effect of Local Government Financing in Nigeria using Iwo Local Government as a Case Study. Data was generated mainly from secondary sources. However, the data collected were subjected to descriptive statistics (simple percentage) and content analysis. Findings from the analysis showed that financial transfers from the federal government (Statutory Federal

Allocation) are the most viable and reliable source of local government revenue and that without Federal Allocation no capital project can be embarked upon.

Nebo and Chigbo (2015) conducted a study on Effective revenue utilisation and substantive Development: a study of the Nnewi North Local Government Area of Anambra state. The research is survey research while a stratified random sampling technique was used. The researcher made use of the primary and secondary methods of data collection. Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses. The study observed among others that, local government has always been dependent when it comes to their expenditures; they rely and hope on the statutory allocation that comes from the federal government for their expenditures and that the application of financial controlling measures affects the development of Nnewi North local government area positively since it reduces looting and embezzlements of the fund.

Gap in Empirical Review

The studies reviewed highlighted the challenges confronting Local Governments' Administration in the provision of efficient and effective social services due to the overbearing influence of the state governments in Nigeria vis-a-vis State Joint Local Government Account. However, to the best of knowledge of the researcher, there is not a study covering the senatorial zones of Enugu State hence the importance of the study.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study adopted a survey design given the nature of the study which among other things sought the opinions of respondents through the administration of a questionnaire instrument. The reason is that it allows the researcher to have a face to face interaction



with the proposed population and an opportunity to go to the field where information can be sourced freely. The study was conducted in Enugu State's three senatorial zones- Enugu East, Enugu West and Enugu North. One local government each was selected from the senatorial zones. Enugu South, Udi Local Government and Igbo Etiti Local Government.

The researcher made use of primary and secondary data.

Primary data used was from the answers to the questionnaire used in the study. It was collected through direct observation of issues, events or phenomena and personal interviews using questionnaires and oral interviews.

Secondary data was sourced from books, journals, internet resources, etc. The secondary data were sourced from published journals, books, articles, magazines, newspapers and other related materials

Population of the Study

The population used for the study is hereby presented in the table below; the Local Governments were selected based on their status: urban, semi-urban and rural local government. Enugu South is urban; Udi is semi-urban while Igbo Etiti is a rural local government.

Table 3.1: Population distribution of LGAS

LGA	Population	Percentage
Enugu South	198,032	30.7
Udi	208,333	32.3
Igbo Etiti	238,305	37.0
Total	644,670	100

Source: National Population Commission 2006.

Determination of Sample Size

In determining the sample, the Taro Yamane sample size determination formula was used.

The formula is stated as follows:

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

Where n = desired sample size, N = finite population size, 1 = unity and it is constant, e = error margin (0.05, 0.03, 0.04, 0.5, etc)

$$n = \frac{644,670}{1 + 644,670(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{644,670}{1 + 644,670 \times 0.0025} = \frac{644,670}{1612.675} = 399.7$$

Sample size approximately = 400. Therefore, the sample size for the study was 400

Sampling Technique

The sampling technique used for this study in the selection of the sample population was the simple random sampling technique. In that regard, each the sample size population has the equal and independent opportunity of being selected in the sample of the study. The researcher then used simple random sampling to select respondents within each of the sub-group. To ensure the respondents were equally represented, the researcher purposively selected community leaders, women organizations, traditional rulers and cabinet members, residents of the selected communities etc.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher used the questionnaire and interview guide for the study. They were used to establish how the state/joint local government joint account influenced rural development in Enugu State, Nigeria. The rationale for using these two instruments was because they helped to provide the researcher with relevant quantitative and qualitative data that were used to test the formulated hypotheses. The questionnaire instrument was in a 5-point Likert scale structured form

(Strongly agreed, agreed, undecided, disagreed, strongly disagreed)

Validity of the Instrument

The researcher used the Face Validity approach to ensure the measuring instruments properly actualize their task which was to gather relevant data used for the study. To execute the face validity of the measuring instruments, the researcher gave copies of the instruments to two expert researchers in Measurement and Evaluation in ESUT. These experts offered necessary corrections in such a manner that the questions effectively address the goals of the study.

Reliability of Measuring Instrument

To determine how reliable, the instruments were, a test-retest reliability procedure was

Table 4.1: The effect of the State Local Joint Local Government Account on health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria

s/n		SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	State joint local government accounts ensure efficient service delivery in rural areas	18	37	27	27	95	2.30	Rejected
2	The state/local government joint account has resulted in the provision of essential health facilities in my area.	18	73	18	37	58	2.79	Rejected
3	With the joint account, the Local government can provide basic health care services in my area.	37	73	18	58	18	3.26	Accepted
4	With the state/joint account, health care in my area is made affordable by the local government.	18	73	40	55	18	3.09	Accepted
5	The local government in my area has not lived up to expectations in the area of providing basic healthcare services.	18	75	37	37	37	3.0	Accepted
6	In my area, there is no presence of local government in the provision of medical services	20	37	37	73	37	2.66	Rejected
	Valid N (listwise)	204					2.85	Rejected

Source: Field Survey 2021, SPSS version 23.0 Result Output

Table 4.1 above showed the mean distribution of opinions of the respondents on the

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implication of the State Joint Local Government Account on health care services in Enugu State, Nigeria. With regards to item one, the data showed a mean score of 2.30 which is an indication that the respondents rejected that the State joint local government account ensures efficient service delivery in rural areas. In item two, the high mean of 2.79 is an indication that the majority of the respondents strongly disagreed with the proposition that the state/local government joint account resulted in the provision of essential health facilities in their areas. Concerning item three, the result showed a mean score of 3.26 which directly implied that the majority of respondents agreed that with the joint account, the Local government was able to provide basic health care services in their areas. For item number four, the result showed a high mean score of 3.09 which directly implied that the majority of

respondents agreed that with state/joint account, health care in their areas was made affordable by the local government.,for item five the high mean of 3.0 depicted that respondents were all in agreement that Local governments in their rural areas have not lived up to expectation in the area of providing basic healthcare services, for item five the high mean of 2.66 showed that respondents rejected that in their areas, there was no presence of local government in the provision of medical services. The grand mean of 2.85 showed that respondents disagreed that the application of the State Joint Local Government Account impinges on health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria

Research Questions Two: How does the State Joint Local Government Account Policy affect the rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria?

Table 4.2: How State Joint Local Government Account Policy affected the rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria

S/N		SA	A	U D	DA	SD	Mean	Decision
1	With the joint account of State/Local Government, the road maintenance services of my local government are grossly inadequate	92	55		55	2	3.8	Accepted
2	The local government in my area cannot maintain our rural roads as a result of heavy deductions by the state government.	112	37	37	18		4.20	Accepted
3	The poor state of rural roads is a result of deprivation of funding from a joint account	37	94	37	18	18	3.56	Accepted
4	The local government in my area lack the political and willpower to execute road projects in the rural areas	94	37	18	55		3.83	Accepted
5	The capacity of the local government is effectively being utilized in the provision of road culverts and bridges		73		95	37	2.54	Rejected
6	Our rural roads are more accessible with the road maintenance of the Local Government	18	18		131	37	2.26	Rejected
	Valid N (listwise)				204		3.36	Accepted

Source: Field Survey 2021, SPSS version

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23.0 Result Output

Table 4.2 is assumed to be indicative responses to how State Joint Local Government Account Policy affected the rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria. With regards to item one, the data revealed that the mean score is 3.8 is an indication that the majority of the respondents accepted that with the joint account of State/Local Government, the road maintenance services of local government are grossly inadequate. In item two, the mean of 4.20 is an indication that the majority of the respondents accepted that the local government in their area cannot maintain the rural roads as a result of heavy deductions by the state government. About item three, the result showed a high mean score of 3.56 implies that the majority of respondents accepted that the poor state of rural roads is a result of deprivation of funding from the joint account. For item number four, the high

mean of 3.83 depicted that respondents accepted that the local government in their areas lack the political and willpower to execute road projects in the rural areas, for item number five, the mean of 2.54 depicted that the respondents rejected that the capacity of the local government is effectively being utilized in the provision of road culverts and bridges and item six with the mean of 2.26 equally showed that the respondents rejected that their rural roads are more accessible with the road maintenance of the Local Government. The grand mean of 3.36 is an indication that the respondents agreed that State Joint Local Government Account Policy affected the rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria

Research Questions Three: What is the effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria?

Table 4.3: The effect of the State Joint Local Government Account on improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria

S/N		SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Mean	Decision
1	With the joint account, the local government worked aggressively and assiduously toward rural development like the construction and maintenance of primary schools	18	37	37	75	37	2.63	Rejected
2	With the joint account, the local government can fund adult education in my area	37	37	18	75	37	2.81	Rejected
3	There is no strong presence of local government in the maintenance of basic education infrastructure in my area	58	73	37	18	18	2.69	Rejected
4	The joint account is reducing all local government efforts toward providing educational services in my area	18	37	73	37	37	2.79	Rejected
5	With a joint account in place, the local government is weakened in its bid to assist in providing educational resource materials to their students	37	55	37	20	55	3.0	Accepted

6	Educational facilities are undermined seriously	92	37	18	20	18	3.53	Accepted
	Valid N (listwise)						2.91	Rejected

Source: Field Survey 2021, SPSS version 23.0 Result Output

Table 4.3 is assumed to be indicative responses to the implication of the State Joint Local Government Account on improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. With regards to item one, the data revealed that the mean score is 2.63 indicating that the respondents disagreed that with the joint account local government worked aggressively and assiduously towards rural development like construction and maintenance of primary schools. In item two, the high mean of 2.81 is an indication that the majority of the respondents disagreed that with the joint account the local government can fund adult education in their area. About item three, the result showed a mean score of 2.89 which implied that the majority of respondents rejected that there is no strong presence of local government in the maintenance of basic education infrastructure in their areas.

For item number four, the mean of 2.79 depicted that respondents disagreed that the Joint account is reducing all local government efforts towards providing educational services in their areas, for item number five, the mean of 3.0 showed that respondents agreed that the joint account in place the local government is weakened in its bid to assist in providing educational resource materials to their pupils and item six with the mean of 3.53 equally showed that

the respondents agreed that Educational facilities are undermined seriously. The grand mean of 2.91 showed that the respondents are firm in their position that the State Joint Local Government Account did not improve educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria

4.2 Test of Research Hypotheses

Data generated from the study were used to test the hypotheses using the chi-square test tool with the formula:

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

Where O = observed frequency

E = Expected frequency

Assumptions: Level of significance = 0.05

Decision Rule:

1. Reject H_0 if the P-Value cal < 0.05 at 5% level of significance.
2. Otherwise accept the null hypothesis (H_0).

4.2.1 Test of Hypothesis One

Statement of hypothesis One

H_0 : The application of the State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly impacted health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria

H_1 : The application of the State Joint Local Government Account has significantly impacted health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria

Table 4.4 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	85.598 ^a	16	.060
Likelihood Ratio	99.604	16	.060
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.060	1	.203
N of Valid Cases	204		

a. 12 cells (48.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .20.

D.F = Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; $\chi^2_{cal} = 85.598$, $p = 0.060$

Decision: From the Chi-square analysis in Table 4.4, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 85.598 and P-value of 0.060, in table 4.4 revealed that State Joint Local Government Accounts have a positive influence on health care service delivery in Enugu State and this influence is statistically not significant at 5% level of significance as the P-value is not within 5% significance level. This result, therefore suggests that we should accept our null hypothesis one (H_0) which states the application of the State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly

impacted health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria.

4.2.2 Test of hypotheses Two

Statement of hypothesis Two

Ho: State Local Government Account policy has no significant impact on rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria

Hi: State Local Government Account policy has a significant impact on rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria

Table 4.5 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.091 ^a	16	.003
Likelihood Ratio	42.634	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.100	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	204		

a. 12 cells (48.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .41.

D.F = Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; $\chi^2_{cal} = 36.091^a$, $p = 0.003$

Decision: From the Chi-square analysis in Table 4.5, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 36.091^a and P-value of 0.003, table 4.5 revealed that State Joint Local Government Account has a positive influence on rural road maintenance services in Enugu State and this influence is statistically significant at 5% level of significance as the P-value is within 5% significance level. This result, therefore suggests that we should accept our alternate hypothesis one (H_1) which states the State Local Government Account policy has

positively impacted rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria.

4.2.3 Test of hypotheses Three

Statement of hypothesis Three

Ho: The State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Hi: The State Joint Local Government Account has significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Table 4.6: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	48.008 ^a	16	.011
Likelihood Ratio	60.354	16	.011
Linear-by-Linear Association	.040	1	.841
N of Valid Cases	204		

a. 14 cells (56.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is .26.

D.F = Degree of freedom; D.F = 16; χ^2_{cal} = 48.008^a, p = 0.011

Decision: The Chi-square analysis in Table 4.6, based on the χ^2_{cal} value of 48.008^a and P-value of 0.011, in table 4.6 revealed that State Joint Local Government Account has a positive influence on educational service delivery in Enugu State and this influence is statistically not significant at 5% level of significance as the P-value is not within 5% significance level. This result, therefore suggests that we should accept our null hypothesis one (H_0) which states the State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

4.3.1 State Joint Local Government Account and health care service

The result of hypothesis one indicated that the application of the State Joint Local government Account has not significantly impacted health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria; the finding is in agreement with the findings of Nkwagu and Adedoyin (2017) who found that the non-timely release of money from the State Joint Local Government Account to Local Government councils significantly affected the performance of local government councils. Equally, the non-interference of the State government on the money at the credit of the State Joint Local Government Account significantly improved



the performance of Local Government Councils in Ebonyi State.

4.3.2 State Local Government Account Policy and Rural road Maintenance services

The result of hypothesis two indicated that the State Local Government Account policy has positively impacted rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria. This is evident from the value of $\chi^2 = 36.091^a$ and the P-value of 0.003. The finding disagreed with the finding of Nwodo and Offu (2019) who found that the implementation of SJLGA negatively affected rural development in Igbo-Etiti.

4.3.3 State Joint Local Government account and improved educational services

Lastly, the result of hypothesis three revealed that State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. This is based on the fact that the value χ^2 cal value of 48.008^a and P-value of 0.011. This finding equally agreed with the finding of Okafor and Ijeoma (2019) who showed that this relationship negatively affected the fiscal capacity of the council in the period under review to deliver effective public services to the various communities that make up the area. This was due to cases of illegal deductions, withholding of council funds and refusal to remit a statutory 10% of the total revenue of the states to local councils.

Summary of Findings

- i. State Joint Local Government Account did not significantly impact health care service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. This goes to show that Local government Authorities have not lived up to expectations. in the area of providing basic healthcare services.

- ii. State Local Government Account policy had positively impacted rural road maintenance services in Enugu State, Nigeria. This implies that rural roads are more accessible with the road maintenance of the Local Government authority.
- iii. State Joint Local Government Account had not significantly improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria. This indicates that the Joint account is reducing all local government efforts toward providing educational services in rural areas.

Conclusion

The study concluded that State Joint Local Government Account has not significantly impacted healthcare service delivery and improved educational service delivery in Enugu State, Nigeria but influenced rural road maintenance services. This fulfils the aim of the joint account system which is to drive good governance and effective service delivery and overall grassroots development. The overbearing influence and sharp practices of some of the state governors and the corrupt nature of local government leadership in the operation of the joint account system have had a considerable adverse effect on service delivery which no doubt contributes to the underdevelopment of the rural communities.

Recommendations

1. The study recommends the abolition of the State Joint Local Government Account law or a major review of some of its provisions especially sections 162(6) and (8) to allow the local governments to access their federal allocations directly to enable the Local governments to deliver more healthcare packages to the people.
2. The study recommends that the Enugu State government should entrench the fiscal relation, the enabling environment



for the timely release of money from the State joint local government account to local government councils if local government areas must witness the positive performance and rapid development in the state.

3. The local government should also be encouraged to improve their sources of internally generated revenue (IGR) for them to be self-sufficient and self-reliant; this will reduce over-dependence on allocation from the federation account.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study has contributed theoretically and empirically to knowledge.

The findings of the study have shown the policymakers and lawmakers the need to make policies and laws that will empower the local government administration to enjoy financial autonomy, this will pave way for more grassroots oriented programmes.

The study brought to limelight the deficiency in the State Joint Local Government Account, the constitutional loopholes that have impinged on rural development of Nigeria, there is need for the political class to accord more powers to local government for rapid rural development to take place, this will reduce unnecessary deductions from the account of Local Government Authority which hinders rural development.

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Table 2.1: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION RECEIPT AND PAYMENT

S/ N	LOCAL GOVT.	2016 ₦	2017 ₦	2018 ₦	2019 ₦	2020 ₦
1	ENUGU EAST	509,854,829 .48	861,423,469. 14	1,485,209,818. 48	1,677,094,880 .03	2,696,057, 777.72
2	ENUGU NORTH	429,852,776. 32	797,643,359. 39	1,333,273,606. 27	1,551,305,105. 80	2,159,941,9 07.96
3	ENUGU SOUTH	421,434,236. 35	716,296,060. 75	1,319,734,782. 48	1,501,291,707. 95	2,188,517,4 45.27
4	ISI-UZO	629,282,352 .67	1,052,714,92 6.07	1,454,321,523. 55	1,488,681,337. 31	1,844,691,9 73.10
5	NKANU WEST	590,298,135. 89	899,799,675, 72	1,334,632,627. 15	1,449,763,908. 92	1,865,790, 840.60
6	IGBO-ETITI	532,202,132. 12	869,793,451. 40	1,373,842,882. 57	1,516,569,120. 29	2,025,529, 956.81

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Advance Journal of Current Research

Adv. J. C. Research

Vol. 7; Issue 7; 2022

July-2022

ISSN: 2323 – 1744

Impact Factor: 5.47

Advance Scholars Publication

Published by International Institute of Advance Scholars Development

<https://aspjournals.org/ajcr/index.php/ajcr/index>



7	IGBO-EZE NORTH	415,217,823. 75	778,938,747. 48	1,328,524,041. 97	1,557,293,618. 59	2,200,160, 359.63
8	IGBO-EZE SOUTH	537,660,327. 79	881,790,664. 72	1,329,615,295. 84	1,476,253,231. 02	1,939,396, 687.76
9	NKANU EAST	554,203,077. 63	839,568,649. .58	1,278,306,929. 65	1,433,696,547. 67	1,909,887, 049.93
10	NSUKKA	346,993,136. 21	742,925,664. 27	1,356,724,722. 56	1,738,876,506. 57	2,445,625, 224.95
11	UDENU	455,611,486. 98	773,483,809. .39	1,206,844,396. .21	1,395,799,184. 06	1,875,382,1 45.71
12	UZO UWANI	455,805,754. 89	645,299,324. 09	1,165,263,582. 20	1,309,556,201. 70	1,737,762,7 82.16
13	AWGU	659,161,936. 71	1,117,831,916 .00	1,438,362,956. 18	1,542,126,529. 63	2,004,689, 999.08
14	ANINRI	476,828,319. 56	768,032,533, 81	1,157,075,390. 47	1,273,243,716. 09	1,704,413,9 73.17
15	EZEAGU	580,355,310. 15	878,083,034 .73	1,364,555,290. 64	1,512,588,646. 93	1,970,602, 043.69
16	OJI RIVER	514,070,252. 85	804,336,553 .28	1,202,975,212. 15	1,301,853,198. 81	1,685,094, 390.46
17	UDI	484,192,876, 71	926,641,858. 74	1,326,252,578. 83	1,570,159.329. 04	2,119,041.5 50.46
	TOTAL	8,593,024, 836.35	14,354,603 ,850.03	22,455,515,6 37.2	23,727,563,6 00.739	32,255,66 3,668.32

Source: Accountant General Office, Enugu State Government of Nigeria

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