

1 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OBA**
2 **AKOKO, AKOKO SOUTH WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA**

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4 The recognition and importance of local government in the development process is prompted by
5 the imperative to tackle local socio-economic problems and to manage grassroots development,
6 especially through provision of basic infrastructure. The paper therefore, underscores the impacts
7 of local government administration on the development of oba Akoko, Akoko South west Local
8 government, Ondo state, Nigeria. The first stage in the collection of primary data is the
9 reconnaissance survey of the study area where nine quarters in Oba Akoko region was identified,
10 namely; Odooro, Obaju, Owaodo, Irefun, Ekusi, Ode arinkansin, Ibeware, Odokele, Oketere.
11 Fifteen questionnaires were administered in each of the nine quarters through random sampling
12 method, making a total of one hundred and thirty five. Oral interview was also conducted at the
13 local government to elicit vital information on the developmental activities and the challenges
14 among others. The paper reveals inadequate performance of the local government in the area of
15 transportation, infrastructural development and the employment creation. The study further
16 found out that the local government impacts on the local economy and housing were positive.
17 Also, the contribution of the local government concerning combating of crimes was insignificant.
18 The paper reveals that there is poor performance of the local government towards the
19 developmental programmes; also, the local government has not done well in the development
20 activities and assistance to farmers and the artisans were inadequate. The factors hindering the
21 successful implementation of the developmental programmes in Oba Akoko, includes corruption
22 on the one hand and undue interference of the state government concerning local government
23 affairs on the other hand. The paper however recommends among others that; local government
24 allocation should be increased by the federal government, undue interference from governments
25 at the state and federal level should be minimized, while corruption should be discouraged.

26 Key Words: Grassroot, Local government, Administration, Development, Infrastructure, Oba
27 Akoko

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29 **Introduction**

30 Local governments are public agencies that provide urban services to communities in
31 enhancing better operations; the vehicle of delivering services and achieving of sustainable
32 socio-economic development. (Kuppusamy 2008; Ljeoma (2013). Local government
33 administration in Nigeria has been in existence since 1972 but unfortunately, it has been
34 inefficient and ineffective in addressing the primary needs and wants of the people at the grass-
35 root. The local government councils are required to serve the public interest in areas of
36 developmental programmes, such as; constructing roads, public markets, health care centers,
37 drainages, motor parks, building primary schools, provision of social and economic amenities,
38 making governance available at the door step of people. This is because local government
39 enhances the transfer of political powers to local areas by involving the inhabitants in the
40 provision of basic needs in their respective communities. Local government is seen as
41 government by local inhabitants freely elected to carryout programmes to improve the wellbeing
42 of the people at the grass-root.

43 The essence of creating local government anywhere in the world stems from the need to
44 facilitate development of the grassroots. Local government in its real sense, is very vital in the
45 social-economy polity of (form of government of a social organization) Nigeria, this is so
46 because it is the nearest form of government to the common man in the observed rural settings
47 everywhere. Local governments are expected to carry out regional policies with respect to
48 ameliorate poverty, unemployment, among others especially, in the 21st century. Local
49 government suppose to be the machinery for rural development and transformation, but research
50 findings and empirical evidence have shown that most local government activities have not
51 adequately mobilized the people for rural development activities (Fagbohunka, 2012).). Local
52 government is a form of devolution of power of state.

53 Local government is designed to achieve goals of economics, social and political
54 development. For a local government to achieve its goals, it should be appropriately structured,
55 adequately funded and sufficiently staffed with well qualified and consciously trained,
56 motivated, competent and educated personnel.

57 According to Agagu (2005), local government in Nigeria is generally regarded as an
58 effective instrument for the development of the communities within its domain and for provision

59 of social services of the population. The essential function of local government is regarded as
60 provision of services (Sikiru, L. 2000). Its closeness to the local population makes it to be in a
61 better position to provide certain services for efficiency than other levels of government. Local
62 government in Nigeria has suffered a serious setback and problems since its creation and are
63 only living or operating at the mercy of the Federal and State government. The state and federal
64 government enjoys so much power that they always lord it over the local government. This paper
65 is poised to examine the adequacy of services rendered by the local government to the
66 inhabitants; such as healthcare delivery, access to drinkable water, good roads among others,
67 having the premonition that huge resources were accrued to the local government every year.

68 **Conceptual Issues/Literature Review**

69 According to Adedeji (2000:96); financial resources available to the individual local
70 authorities and the way the resources are utilized have a significant impact on the success or
71 failure and the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of local government. Odaro (2012) explains that,
72 there are several ways the local government council can generate funds which is especially
73 hinged on the ability of chairman to look inwards to create means of generating funds for the
74 council.

75 Scholars and practitioners of the local government over the years, for instance (Ajayi
76 2000, Diso , Yahya 2009, Ogidiefa 2010), among others, believed that the local government in
77 Nigeria has not lived up to their constitutional responsibilities in terms of community
78 development. These scholars agreed that local government in Nigeria today is confronted by
79 number of challenges which includes; conflict of functional role, low administrative efficiency,
80 problem of personnel management, corruption and mismanagement of fund, poor leadership
81 undue political influence and poor infrastructure and social services delivery, among others.

82 Galvin, M. (2003) believed the closeness of the local government to the local population
83 makes it to be in a better position to provide certain services for efficiency than other levels of
84 government. He further asserted that local government is a system of government where local
85 council make, accept responsibility for and implement their own decision. There is nothing to
86 write home about concerning the principles of accountability in many local government council,

87 there is no proper consultation with the people for whom the various services is being provided,
88 especially in term of knowing their needs, problems and potentials (Sikiru, 2000). It must be
89 noted that local government has performed poorly in the area of infrastructural development and
90 has remained inactive over the years as a result of misappropriation of funds, excessive control
91 and various interferences exercised by the higher levels of governments, Odoh (2004).

92 **Study Area and the Methods**

93 Oba Akoko is situated in Akoko south west, Ondo state, Nigeria. Having it's headquarter
94 at Oka Akoko. There are five towns under Akoko South West, namely; Oka Akoko, Akungba
95 Akoko, Supare Akoko, Ikun Akoko and Oba Akoko. The area is characterised by rough
96 topography with various heights of highlands and rocks. Since Oba Akoko is located in the
97 tropical region, there is adequate precipitation. The soil of the study area is ferruginous type.
98 Tropical hardwood such as mahogany, Iroko, Afara among others are found in the area, and the
99 inhabitants engage predominantly in primary activities such as farming and exploitation of the
100 forest resources.

101 Precisely, a larger percentage of the population engage in farming as their major
102 occupation, the inhabitants engaged mostly on root crops like yams, maize and cassava which
103 has been through mere subsistence farming. Some farmers also combine cash crop such as cocoa,
104 kola-nut while few engage in other activities like trading, teaching, artisans, carpentry and
105 bricklaying, among others. They also involve in different festival such as egun festival, new yam
106 festival, among others. Oba Akoko's terrain is sloppy and their settlement pattern is linear that is
107 along the road side. Oba Akoko shared border with Owo local government.

108 The first stage in the collection of primary data is the reconnaissance survey of the study
109 area where nine quarters in Oba Akoko region was identified, namely; Odooro, Obaju, Owaodo,
110 Irefun, Ekusi, Ode arinkansin, Ibeware, Odokele, Oketere. Fifteen questionnaires were
111 administered in each of the nine quarters through random sampling method, making a total of
112 one hundred and thirty five. Oral interview was also conducted at the local government to elicit
113 vital information on the developmental activities and the challenges among others.

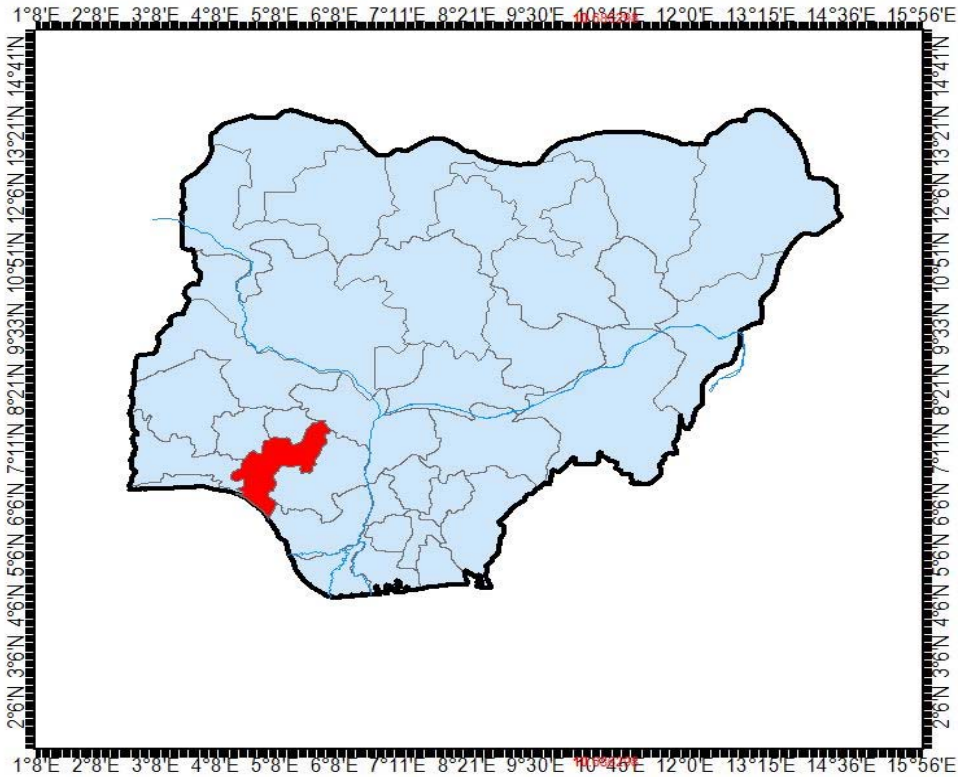
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MAP OF NIGERIA SHOWING ONDO STATE



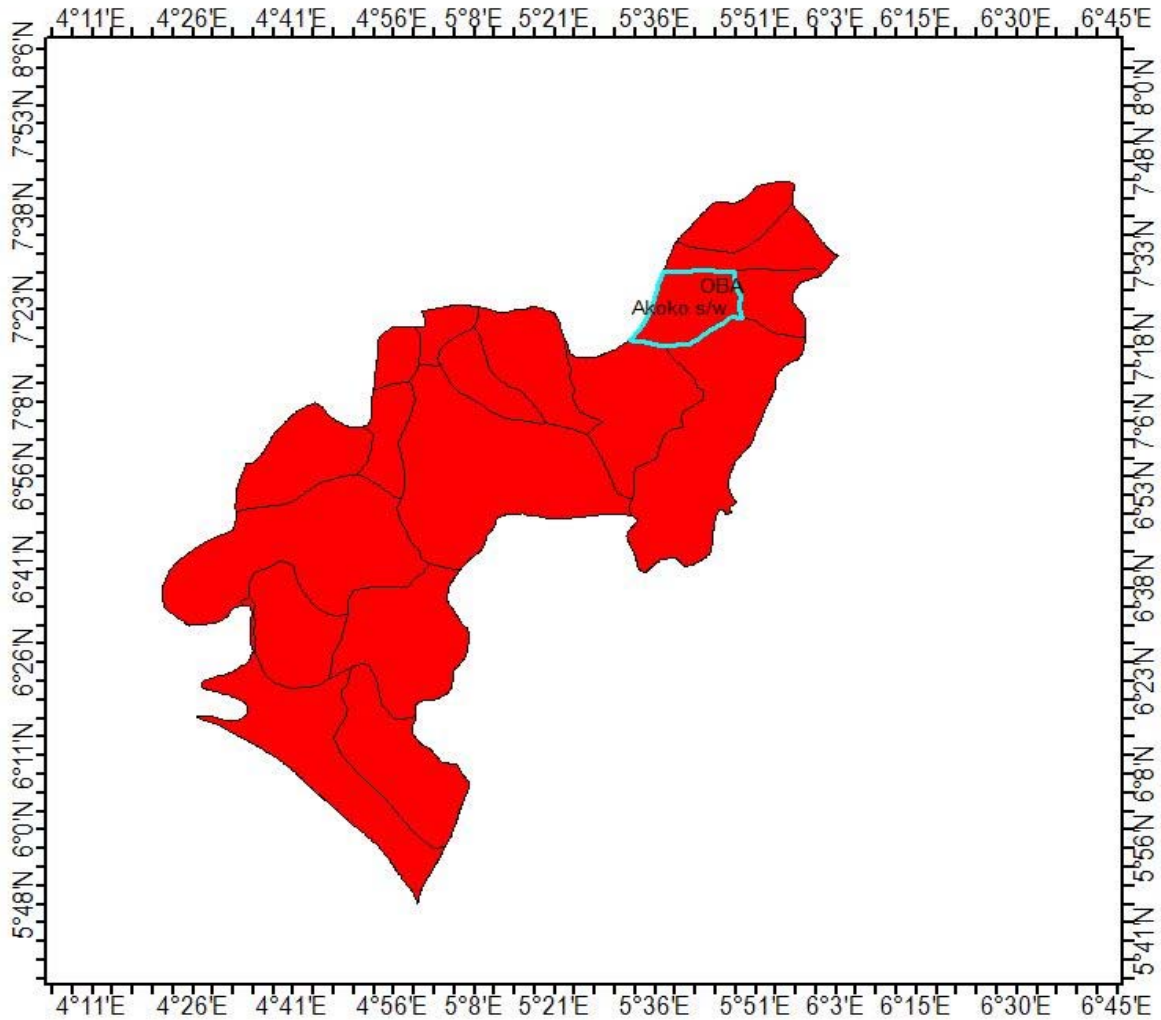
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119 **Fig 1.**

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MAP OF ONDO STATE SHOWING AKOKO SOUTH WEST



Legend

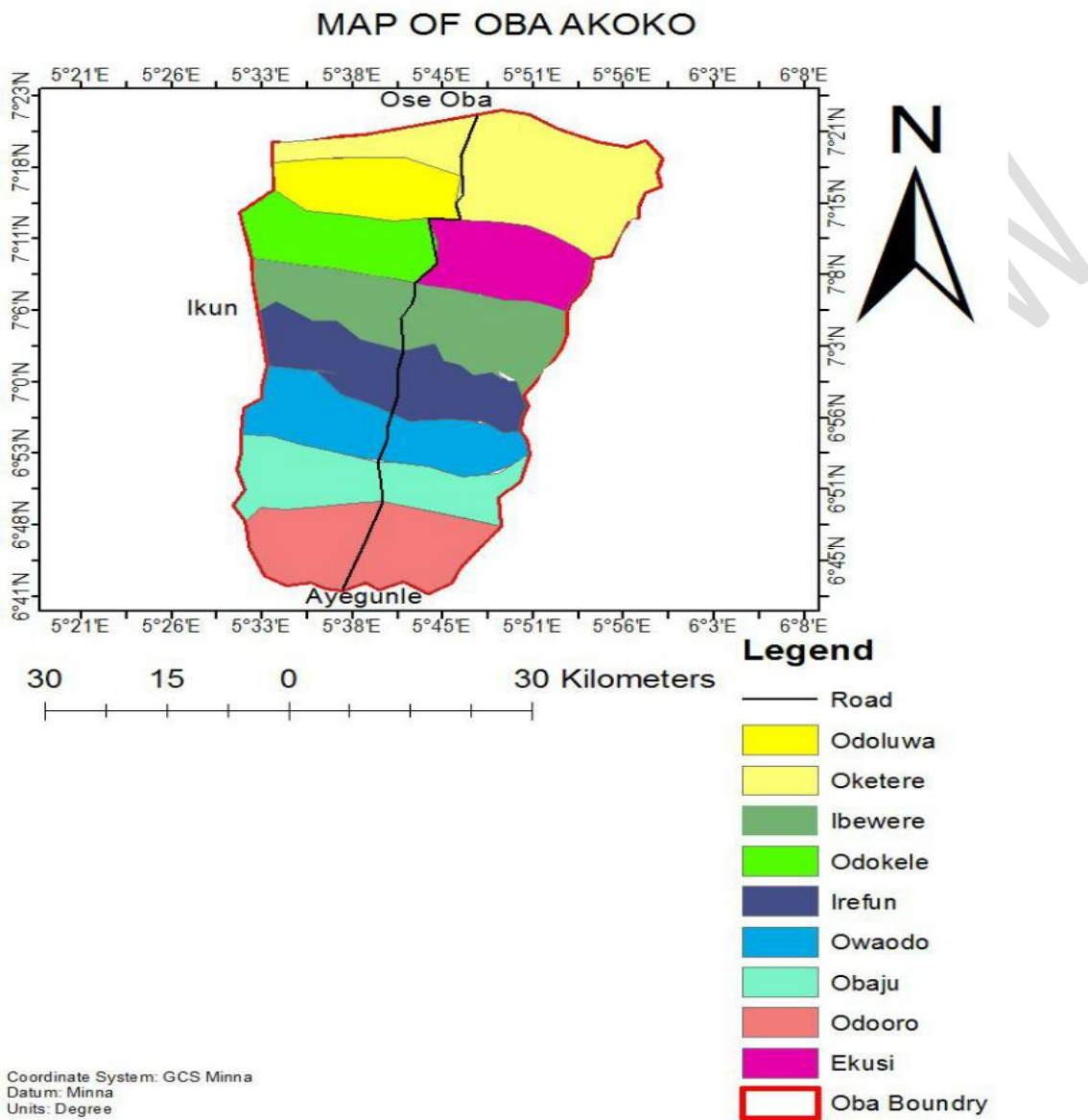
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123 **Fig. 2**

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126 **Fig.3**

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133 **Table 1: Socio-Characteristic of Respondents**

Sex	Number of respondent	Percentage %
Male	94	70
Female	41	30
Age (in years)		
<20	03	02
21-30	18	13
31-40	30	22
41-50	45	33
51-60	24	19
60+	15	11
Education Status		
No formal education	31	23
Primary education	37	27
Secondary education	43	32
Tertiary education	16	12
Others	08	06
Occupation		
Farming	74	55
Civil servant	11	08
Trading	19	14
Artisan	15	11
Others	16	12
Years of Residency		
<5	39	29
5-9	57	42
10-14	28	21
15+	11	08

134 Field Survey, 2018.

135 Table 1 reveals the socio-economic variables of the respondents, 94(70%) were males,
 136 while 41(30%) were females. Also, 45(33%) were between 41 and 50 years, whereas 3(02%) are
 137 less than 20 years. Another, 15(11%) respondents were above 60 years, while 30(22%) were
 138 between 31 and 40 years. Furthermore, 16(12%) respondents possess tertiary education,
 139 compared to 43(32%) who possess secondary education. Also, 31(23%) have no formal

140 education, while 37(27%) obtained primary education. Moreover, 74(55%) respondents were
 141 farmers, whereas 11(08%) were civil servants. Another, 19(14%) were traders, while 15(11%)
 142 were artisans. Also, 57(42%) have between 5 and 9 years of residency, while 11(08%) have over
 143 15 years of residency.

144 **Table 2: The Impact of Local Government on Transportation Development**

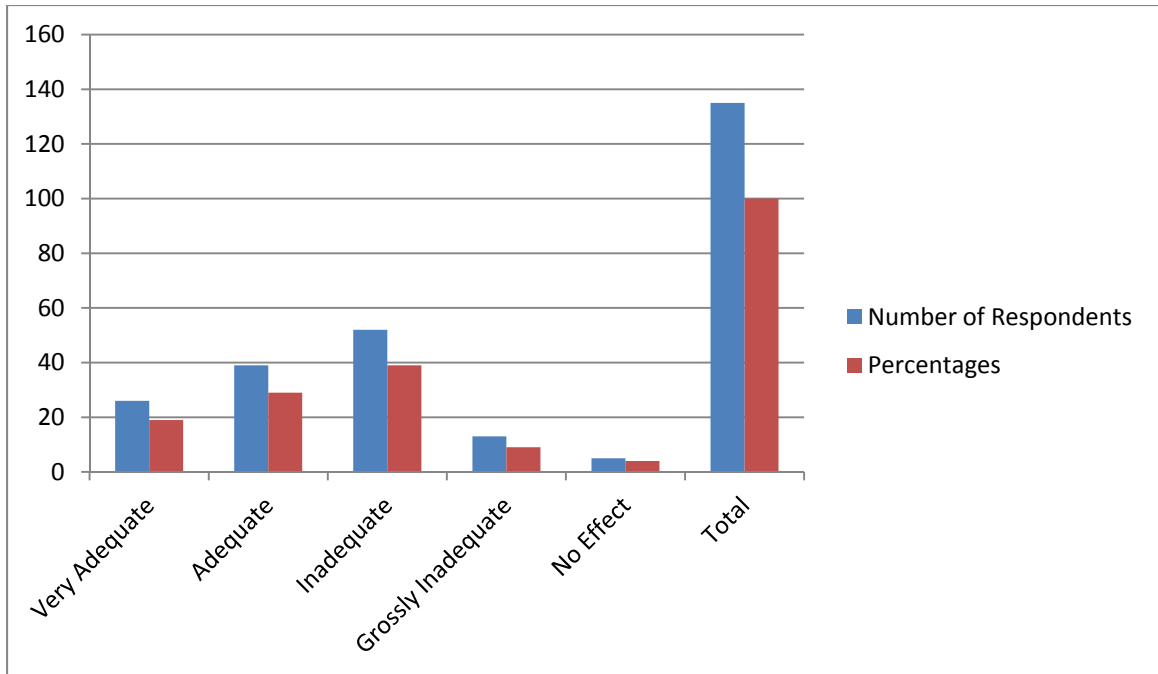
Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Significant	20	15
Significant	28	21
Insignificant	69	51
No Effect	18	13
Total	135	100

145 Field Survey, 2018

146 Table 2 depicts the impact of local government on transportation. Out of 135(100%)
 147 respondents, 69(51%) agreed insignificant contribution of the local government to transportation
 148 sector, while 18(13%) affirmed that local government has no impact on transportation. Another,
 149 28(21%) opined very significant, whereas 28(21%) believed that the local government have
 150 significant effect on transportation development.

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152 **Fig. 4: The Influence of Local Government on Employment Creation**



153
154 Field Survey, 2018

155 Fig. 4 shows that 52(39%) respondents agreed that local government has adequate impact
156 on employment creation, while 5(04%) opined no effect. Also, 39(29%) attested that local
157 government have adequate impact on employment creation, contrary to 13(09%) who believed
158 that local government efforts towards employment creation is grossly inadequate.

159

160 **Table 4: The Effects of Local Government on the Economy**

Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Satisfactory	49	36
Satisfactory	32	24
Not Satisfactory	38	28
Nil	16	12
Total	135	100

161 Field Survey, 2018

162 Table 4 depicts 49(36%) respondents who believed that local government impact on the
163 economy is very satisfactory, while 16(12%) opined no effect. Also, 32(24%) agreed that local
164 government have satisfactory effect on the economy, contrary to 38(28%) respondents who
165 agreed not satisfactory.

166 **Table 5: The Influence of Local Government on Housing**

Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Adequate	39	29
Adequate	51	38
Inadequate	24	18
Grossly Inadequate	14	10
No Effect	07	05
Total	135	100

167 Field Survey, 2018

168 Table 5 reveals that 51(38%) respondents believed that the local government has
 169 adequate influence on housing, whereas 7(05%) agreed no effect. Also, 39(29%) agreed that the
 170 effect of housing is very adequate, contrary to 14(10%) respondents who believed that the impact
 171 of local government on housing is grossly inadequate

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173 **Table 6: The Impact of Local Government on Combating Crimes**

Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Significant	18	13
Significant	20	15
Insignificant	73	54
No Effect	24	18
Total	135	100

174 Field Survey, 2018

175 Table 6 reveals that 73(54%) respondents were of the opinion that local government
 176 impacts in combating crimes is insignificant, whereas 20(15%) believed that the influence in
 177 combating crimes is significant. Another, 24(18%) agreed that local government has no influence
 178 on combating crimes, contrary to 18(13%) respondents that opined very significant.

179

180 **Table 7 The Performance of Local Government on Infrastructural Development**

Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Excellent	19	14
Very Good	13	10

Good	23	17
Fair	35	26
Poor	45	33
Total	135	100

181 Field Survey, 2018

182 Table 7 depicts the influence of local government on infrastructural development. Out of
 183 135(100%) respondents, 45(33%) opined poor performance, while 19(14%) agreed excellent.
 184 Also, 35(26%) believed that the local government has performed fairly on infrastructural
 185 development, whereas 13(10%) respondents opined very good performance.

186 The oral interview conducted revealed that the community lacks social amenities which
 187 affect their economy. The community is witnessing; epileptic power supply, inadequate pipe
 188 born water, obsolete roads, poor housing. The rural infrastructure is unavailable in the local areas
 189 and where it is available; it is severely degraded and inadequate for any meaningful
 190 development. The community lacks social amenities which affects their economy.

191 **Table 8 Development Activities of the Local Government**

Developmental Activities Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Satisfactory	12	09
Satisfactory	29	21
Fairly Satisfactory	08	06
Not Satisfactory	62	46
No Effect	24	18
Total	135	100

192 Field Survey, 2018

193 Table 8 reveals that 29(21%) respondents believed that development activities of the
 194 local government is satisfactory, while 62(46%) agreed not satisfactory. Furthermore, 12(09%)
 195 opined very satisfactory, contrary to 24(18%) respondents who believed that the local
 196 government has no impact on development activities. Oral interview conducted on the local
 197 government staff revealed that the major problems inhibiting developmental activities are of two
 198 fold; corruption on the one hand and undue interference of the state government concerning local
 199 government affairs on the other hand.

200 **Table 9 Notion about Local Government doing enough on the Development Activities**

Notions	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Yes	98	73
No	37	27
Total	135	100

201 Field Survey, 2018

202 Table 9 reveals that 98(73) respondents believed that the local government were not
 203 doing enough concerning developmental activities, while 37(27) agreed that local government
 204 were doing enough towards developmental activities.

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211 **Table 10 Assistance to Farmers and Artisans by the Local Government.**

Assistance	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Very Adequate	14	10
Adequate	22	16
Inadequate	71	52
Grossly Inadequate	20	16
Nil	08	06
Total	135	100

212 Field Survey, 2018

213 Table 10 shows that 71(52%) respondents agreed that local government assistance to
 214 farmers and artisans were inadequate, whereas 22(16%) opined adequate. Also, 14(10%)
 215 respondents believed that local government assistance to farmers and artisans were very
 216 adequate, contrary to 20(16%) who opined grossly inadequate.

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220 **Table 11 Inhabitant efforts to the Developmental Project.**

Impacts	Number of Respondents	Percentages
Excellent	13	10
Very Good	11	09
Good	49	36
Fair	22	15
Poor	40	30
Total	135	100

221 Field Survey, 2018

222 Table 11 reveals that 49(36%) respondents believed that the inhabitants' efforts towards
 223 developmental projects were good, while 40(30%) agreed that the efforts of the inhabitants
 224 towards developmental projects were poor. Another, 13(10%) respondents agreed that the
 225 inhabitants efforts were excellent, while 22(15%) opined that the efforts of the inhabitants were
 226 fair towards developmental project.

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231 **Summary**

232 The analysis of the impact of local government administration on the development of
 233 Oba Akoko, Akoko south west local government, Ondo state has revealed the weakness of local
 234 government in responding to the challenges of grassroot development, especially infrastructure
 235 provision and delivery. The recognition and importance of local government in the development
 236 process is prompted by the imperative to tackle local socio-economic problems and to manage
 237 grassroots development through provision of basic rural infrastructure.

238 The paper reveals that inadequate performance of the local government in the area of
 239 transportation development and the employment creation. The study further found out that the
 240 local government impacts on the local economy and housing were positive. Also, the
 241 contribution of the local government concerning combating of crimes is insignificant. It was
 242 evident from the research that the efforts of the local government towards infrastructural

243 provision were poor. Adequate infrastructural facilities will help in transporting farm product to
244 the market with ease; help the farmers to easily cultivate their land and facilitating storage of
245 their farm products. It will also promote the small scale businesses, thereby creating job
246 opportunities to the inhabitant; improve the community standard of living and attracting
247 investors to invest large scale industries to the community especially the processing of farm
248 products (raw materials), into finished goods. This will positively promote economy of the local
249 community.

250 The paper reveals that there is poor performance of the local government towards the
251 developmental programmes; also, the local government has not done well in the development
252 activities. Assistance to farmers and the artisans were inadequate, while the efforts of the
253 inhabitants to development activities were satisfactory. The factors hindering the successful
254 implementation of the developmental programs in Oba Akoko includes corruption on the one
255 hand and undue interference of the state government concerning local government affairs on the
256 other hand. The paper however, recommends the followings, to enhance significance and
257 positive contribution of the local government to the local economy; local government allocation
258 should be increased by the federal government, undue interference from governments at the state
259 and federal level should be minimized. Corruption should be discouraged, through enforcement
260 of the law and the involvement of the people in the formulation and implementation of policies
261 and projects is very important and should be imbibed. There should be improvement in the
262 revenue generation capacity of local government and government should try their possible best
263 to put in place more social amenities in the community.

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