

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 K.et.al. (2000), among others, believed that the local government in Nigeria has not lived up to
77 their constitutional responsibilities in terms of community development. These scholars agreed
78 that local government in Nigeria today is confronted by number of challenges which includes;
79 conflict of functional role, low administrative efficiency, problem of personnel management,
80 corruption and mismanagement of fund, poor leadership undue political influence and poor
81 infrastructure and social services delivery, among others.

82 Galvin, M. (2009) 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**

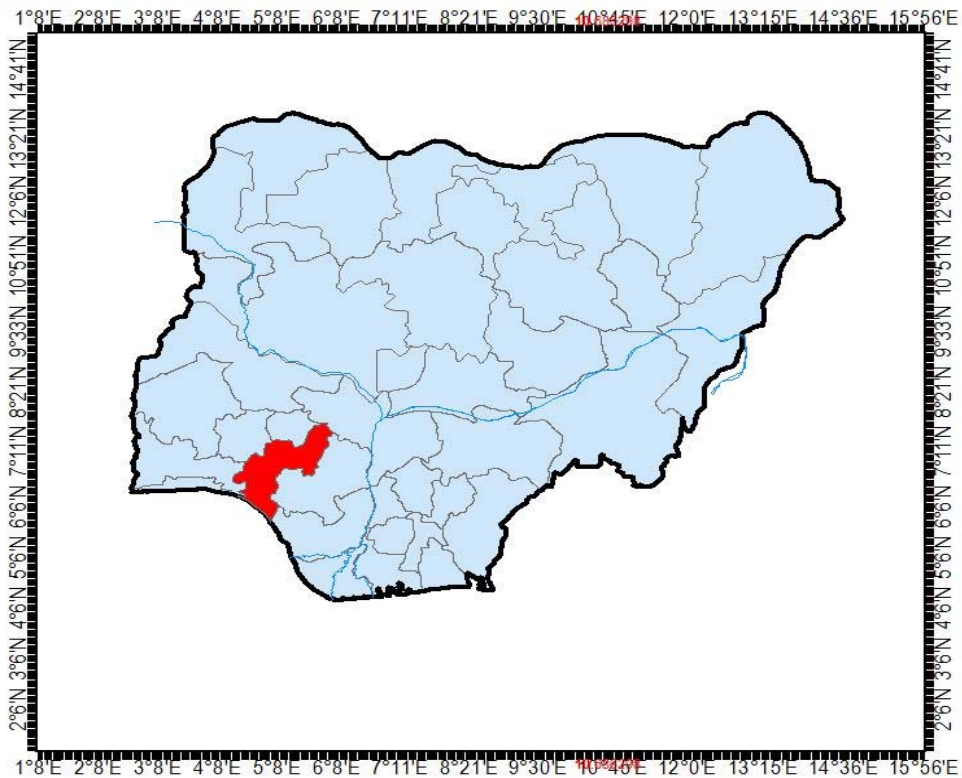
93 Oba Akoko is situated in Akoko south west, Ondo state, Nigeria. Having it's headquarter
94 at Oka Akoko. There are five towns under Akoko South West, namely; Oka Akoko, Akungba
95 Akoko, Supare Akoko, Ikun Akoko and Oba Akoko. The area is characterised by rough
96 topography with various heights of 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



500 250 0 500 Kilometers

Legend

- NIGER_Benue
- Ondo_State
- Nigeria_Bndry
- Nigeria_States

Coordinate System: GCS Minna
Datum: Minna
Units: Degree

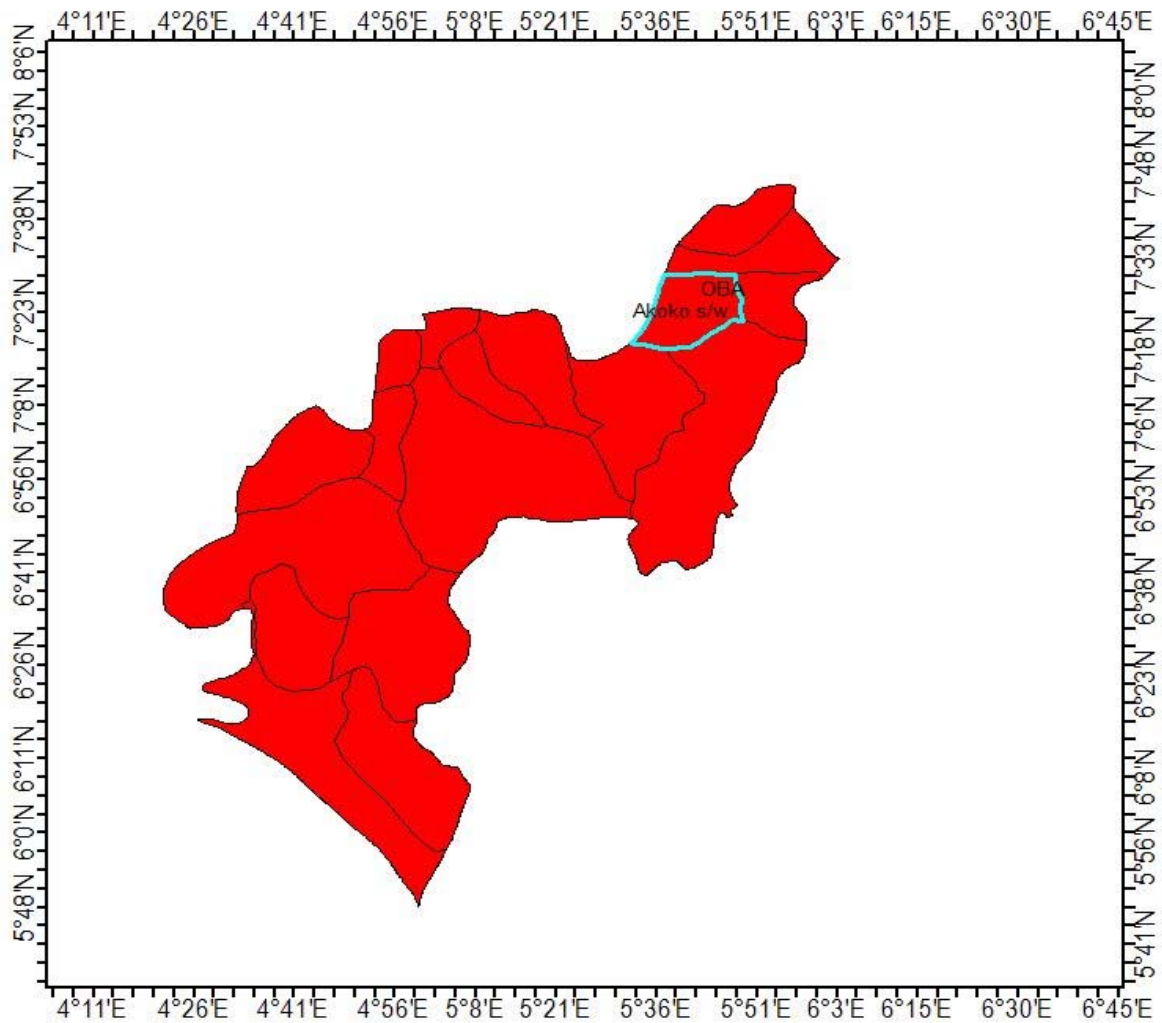
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116 **Fig 1.**

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MAP OF ONDO STATE SHOWING AKOKO SOUTH WEST



Legend

-  Ondo_LG
-  Ondo_State



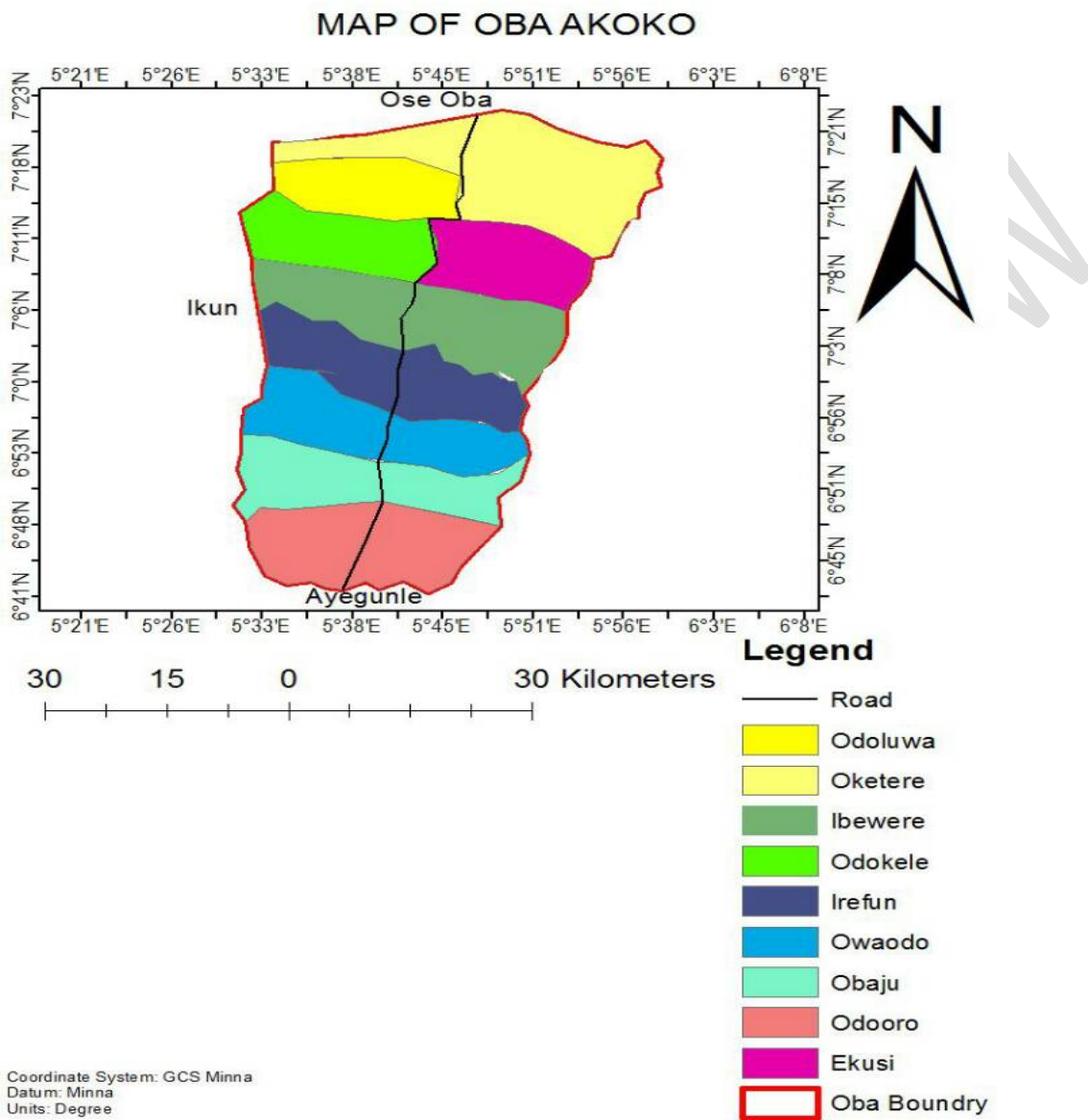
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120 **Fig. 2**

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124 **Fig.3**

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130 **Results and Discussion**

131 **Table 1: Socio- Economic 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

132 Field Survey, 2018.

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

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

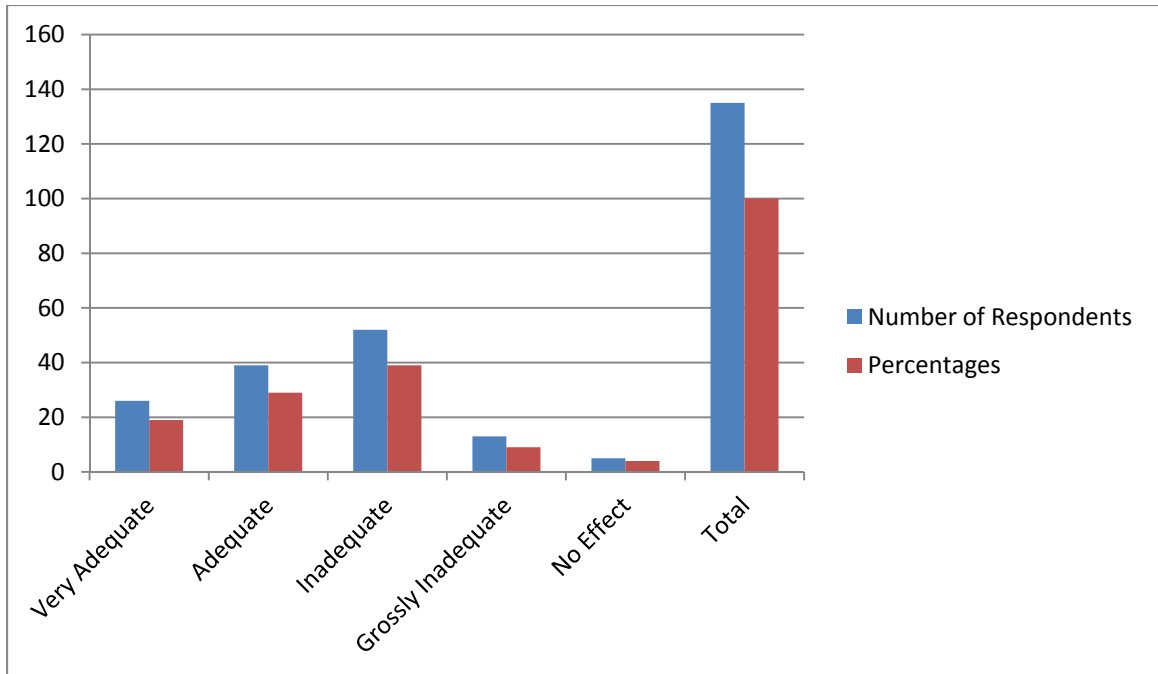
142 **Table 2: The Impact of Local Government on Transportation Development**

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

143 Field Survey, 2018

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

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



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Field Survey, 2018

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

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

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Field Survey, 2018

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

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

165 Field Survey, 2018

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

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171 **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

172 Field Survey, 2018

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

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178 **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

179 Field Survey, 2018

180 Table 7 depicts the influence of local government on infrastructural development. Out of
 181 135(100%) respondents, 45(33%) opined poor performance, while 19(14%) agreed excellent.
 182 Also, 35(26%) believed that the local government has performed fairly on infrastructural
 183 development, whereas 13(10%) respondents opined very good performance.

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

189 **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

190 Field Survey, 2018

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

198 **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

199 Field Survey, 2018

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

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209 **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

210 Field Survey, 2018

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

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218 **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

219 Field Survey, 2018

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

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229 **Conclusion and Recommendations**

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

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

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

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

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