The Effect of Public Policy Implementation on Community and Rural Areas Development in Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of public policy implementation on rural and community development in Nigeria, guided by Implementation Theory. The research aims to assess the multisectoral influence of public policies, the role of local governments in policy execution, and the barriers to effective implementation. Using a mixed methods approach, 400 respondents from Various individual in different local government area in South East of Nigeria were surveyed. Data analysis through descriptive statistics and regression analysis revealed a strong correlation (R = 0.999) between public policy types and rural development, with 99.7% of rural development variability attributed to policies. Additionally, local government actions had a significant correlation (R = 0.942), explaining 88.8% of the variability, emphasizing the critical role of local governance in policy implementation. The study concludes that while public policies can enhance rural development, their effectiveness relies on overcoming systemic barriers and empowering local governments. It recommends developing targeted policies for rural communities and strengthening local governance to improve policy outcomes, contributing to a deeper understanding of policy dynamics in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Public policy implementation is a fundamental mechanism for fostering socioeconomic development, particularly in community and rural areas, which often face persistent challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited access to healthcare, inadequate educational facilities, and low agricultural productivity. In Nigeria, successive governments have formulated policies aimed at addressing these developmental deficits; however, their effectiveness largely depends on successful implementation. Despite well-intentioned policies, the persistent gap between policy formulation and execution continues to hinder rural progress (Akinwale & Oduwaye, 2023).

Rural development policies are designed to enhance infrastructure, improve agricultural productivity, and provide essential social services, yet their impact remains inconsistent due to systemic challenges such as inadequate funding, governance inefficiencies, and corruption (Musa & Ibrahim, 2021). For instance, agricultural policies intended to improve food security often falter when local conditions such as land access, technological availability, and financial support are overlooked (Oladeji & Adetunji, 2022). Similarly, policies aimed at enhancing healthcare and education frequently suffer setbacks due to insufficient human resources and infrastructure. These gaps contribute to the widening disparities between urban and rural areas, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities.

Community participation is a critical factor in ensuring sustainable policy implementation. Policies that fail to integrate local perspectives and stakeholder engagement often face resistance or limited success (Nwankwo & Uche, 2023). Moreover, weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks hinder the ability to assess policy effectiveness and make necessary adjustments in a timely manner. Strengthening institutional frameworks, ensuring greater transparency, and fostering collaboration between government agencies and rural communities are essential for maximizing the impact of public policies.

This study examines the effectiveness of public policy implementation in fostering rural and community

development in Nigeria. It seeks to identify the key barriers to successful policy execution and explore strategies for improving governance structures, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement. By addressing these challenges, public policy can become a more effective tool for driving sustainable rural development in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Public policy implementation is crucial for fostering rural and community development in Nigeria, yet its impact remains inconsistent. Despite numerous policy initiatives, many rural areas continue to struggle with inadequate infrastructure, poor healthcare, and limited access to education and economic opportunities. Eze and Okafor (2022) highlight that while agricultural policies have marginally reduced rural poverty, unequal resource distribution remains a major constraint. Similarly, Adewale and Fashola (2021) note that public health policies have improved water access, but poor maintenance practices undermine service quality, reflecting the persistent gap between policy formulation and execution.

Existing studies often examine individual policy sectors in isolation, overlooking their interconnected effects on rural development. Moreover, methodological limitations hinder a comprehensive understanding of long-term policy impacts. This study aims to bridge these gaps by assessing the effectiveness of public policy implementation in promoting sustainable rural development in Nigeria, providing evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders.

Objective of the study

This study aim at examine the effect of public policy implementation on community and rural areas development in Nigeria, while following objectives are set to;

1. To Assess the Multi-Sectoral Impact of Public Policies on Rural Development in Nigeria

2. To Examine the Role of Local Government in Policy Implementation on rural Development in Nigeria.

Questions

1. What is the multi-sectoral impact of public policies on rural development in Nigeria?

2. What role does local government play in the implementation of public policies for rural development in Nigeria?

Hypothesis

1. Public policies have a significant multi-sectoral impact on rural development in Nigeria.

2. Local government plays a crucial role in the implementation of public policies for rural development in Nigeria.

Significance of the study

This study examines the impact of public policy implementation on the development of communities and rural areas in Nigeria. By analyzing how policies influence sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure, the journal aims to provide insights that can guide policymakers and stakeholders in understanding the complexities of rural development. The findings are expected to inform more integrated approaches in future policy formulations, addressing the interconnectedness of these sectors effectively. Additionally, the study will highlight the critical role of local governments in policy implementation, identifying best practices and offering recommendations to enhance local capacity. This understanding is essential for fostering community engagement and ensuring that policies are tailored to meet the specific needs of rural populations. By identifying barriers to effective policy implementation, the journal will offer actionable insights into the challenges faced by rural communities, contributing to sustainable rural development in Nigeria. The outcomes can serve as a roadmap for future journal, policy adjustments, and community empowerment initiatives, ensuring that public

policies translate into tangible benefits for rural areas.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Public Policy Implementation

Public policy implementation is the process by which government policies and programs are executed to achieve intended outcomes (Demirgüç-Kunt et al., 2022). This process involves various actors, including government agencies, local authorities, and community stakeholders, who collaborate to translate policy objectives into actionable plans (Satgar, 2022). Effective implementation is crucial, as it determines whether the intended benefits of policies reach the target populations, particularly in rural communities where effective delivery can significantly enhance living standards and economic opportunities (Njoroge & Wanjiku, 2021). In Nigeria, the effectiveness of public policy implementation is influenced by factors such as administrative capacities, political will, and resource availability (Aduwa-Ogiegbaen & Iyamu, 2023). Challenges like bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and lack of coordination among stakeholders often hinder effective policy implementation, especially in rural areas where the need for development is most pressing (ICA, 2023). Understanding these dynamics is essential for assessing how public policy impacts community and rural development in Nigeria.

Policy Framework

A policy framework encompasses the structured set of guidelines, principles, and regulations that shape the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies (World Bank, 2023). It provides a roadmap for policymakers to understand the contextual factors influencing policy decisions and helps in aligning resources and actions toward specific developmental goals (Brown et al., 2022). In Nigeria, an effective policy framework is essential for addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities, including poverty, limited access to services, and infrastructural deficits (Khan & Bibi, 2020). By establishing clear objectives and pathways for action, a well-designed policy framework can enhance coordination among various government sectors and stakeholders (Rahman & Hossain, 2019). This coordination is vital in rural areas, where multiple sectors such as health, education, and agriculture intersect, and where integrated approaches can yield greater developmental outcomes (Ghosh, 2021). Analyzing existing frameworks will help identify gaps and weaknesses in policy design and implementation that may impede rural development efforts (Yunus, 2022). By understanding how these frameworks operate, stakeholders can advocate for reforms that promote more effective public policy implementation, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of Nigeria's rural areas.

Infrastructure Improvement

Infrastructure improvement refers to the development and enhancement of physical and organizational structures that support economic activities and improve the quality of life in communities (Morduch & Armendáriz, 2022). This includes essential services such as transportation, water supply, sanitation, electricity, and communication networks (UNESCO, 2023). In Nigeria, inadequate infrastructure is a significant barrier to rural development, affecting access to markets, education, healthcare, and other vital services (Kiva, 2021). The importance of infrastructure improvement in rural development cannot be overstated, as it is crucial for facilitating economic growth and social inclusion (Mensah & Boakye, 2023). Improved infrastructure can lead to increased productivity, reduced travel times, and better access to essential services, ultimately lifting communities out of poverty (Akinyele & Adebayo, 2018). In rural areas, where infrastructure deficits are often more pronounced, targeted investments can make a substantial difference in the lives of residents and contribute to overall development goals (Oladele, 2023). Understanding the state of infrastructure can provide insights into the challenges faced by communities in accessing and benefiting from public policies (Banda & Phiri, 2019). Furthermore, identifying the relationship between infrastructure development and rural policy outcomes will help inform future policy decisions aimed at enhancing rural development in Nigeria (Nkosi & Mthembu, 2018).

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion refers to the process of improving the terms of participation in society for marginalized groups, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from economic, social, and cultural

resources (Phong & Sukhum, 2019). In Nigeria, social inclusion is particularly vital in the context of rural development, where many communities face marginalization and exclusion from decision-making processes and resource allocation (Mekonnen & Tadesse, 2021). The concept of social inclusion is closely tied to the principles of equity and justice, highlighting the importance of empowering marginalized populations, including women, youth, and ethnic minorities (Kato & Wamala, 2023). In rural areas, social inclusion can lead to enhanced participation in local governance, improved access to education and healthcare, and increased economic opportunities (Akomolafe, 2023). By addressing the barriers to social inclusion, policies can foster a more equitable distribution of resources and benefits (Ngugi, 2023). For this study, the relevance of social inclusion lies in its role as a critical factor influencing the effectiveness of public policy implementation in rural areas (Adeyemi & Ogunleye, 2022). Policies that prioritize social inclusion are more likely to achieve their intended outcomes, as they ensure that the voices and needs of all community members are considered (Adekola & Adeleke, 2023). By analyzing how public policies promote or hinder social inclusion, the study can contribute to the development of more effective strategies for rural development in Nigeria (Darling-Hammond, 2023).

Multi-Sectoral Impact

The concept of multi-sectoral impact acknowledges that public policies often have effects that span multiple sectors, such as health, education, agriculture, and economic development (World Bank, 2023). In Nigeria, the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental factors necessitates a multi-sectoral approach to policy implementation, particularly in community and rural development (Birchall, 2023). Policies that fail to consider the broader implications across sectors can result in unintended consequences and limited effectiveness (Demirgüc-Kunt et al., 2022).

Addressing complex challenges like food security requires coordination between agricultural policies, health initiatives, and educational programs (Gupta & Patel, 2023). A multi-sectoral approach ensures that policies are synergistic, leading to more sustainable outcomes (Smith & Johnson, 2023). By integrating various sectors, policymakers can create cohesive strategies that maximize resources and enhance the overall effectiveness of public policies (United Nations, 2023).

Moreover, adopting a multi-sectoral perspective can enhance stakeholder engagement and collaboration among different actors, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community members (Brown et al., 2022). Fostering partnerships across sectors can lead to innovative solutions and shared accountability in public policy implementation (Kiva, 2021). This collaborative approach not only strengthens the capacity of local governments but also ensures that the diverse needs of communities are addressed comprehensively (Satgar, 2022).

Rural Areas Development

Rural areas development focuses on improving the living conditions and economic opportunities for populations residing in rural settings (Morduch & Armendáriz, 2022). This involves addressing issues such as poverty, access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which are often exacerbated in rural communities (Akinyele & Adebayo, 2018). In Nigeria, rural areas development is critical, given that a significant portion of the population lives in these regions and relies on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods (Rahman & Hossain, 2019).

The relevance of rural areas development to this study is rooted in the need to evaluate the effectiveness of public policy implementation in addressing the specific challenges faced by rural populations (Njoroge &

Wanjiku, 2021). Many policies aimed at rural development often overlook local contexts and needs, leading to ineffective implementation (Silva & Oliveira, 2020). By examining the impact of public policies on rural development, this study can identify best practices and areas for improvement to enhance outcomes for communities (Mensah & Boakye, 2023).

Furthermore, effective rural areas development requires a comprehensive understanding of the socioeconomic dynamics at play within these communities (Nkosi & Mthembu, 2018). Policies that foster economic

diversification, improve access to education and healthcare, and enhance infrastructure are vital for sustainable development (Mwita & Msuya, 2021). By assessing the implementation of public policies in rural areas, this study can contribute valuable insights into how to better support the development needs of these communities, ultimately leading to improved quality of life and economic resilience (Phong & Sukhum, 2019).

Community Development

Community development is a process through which community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (Yunus, 2022). It encompasses a range of activities aimed at improving the social, economic, and environmental conditions of communities (ICA, 2023). In Nigeria, community development initiatives are essential for addressing the challenges faced by marginalized populations, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited (Gebremedhin & Tsegaye, 2017).

The relevance of community development to the study of public policy implementation in Nigeria is profound, as it emphasizes the importance of local participation in governance (El Azzouzi & Benmoussa, 2022). Engaging communities in the policy process can lead to more effective implementation of public policies, as it aligns government actions with the needs and aspirations of the people (Khan & Bibi, 2020). Policies that prioritize community engagement can empower citizens and foster a sense of ownership over development initiatives, ultimately leading to better outcomes (Banda & Phiri, 2019).

Moreover, effective community development can enhance social cohesion and resilience among populations facing socioeconomic challenges (Ramirez & Hernandez, 2017). Policies that support community-led initiatives can create opportunities for skill development, income generation, and improved access to services (Santos & Reyes, 2018). By examining the impact of public policy implementation on community development, this study can contribute to the understanding of how to create more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes for rural populations in Nigeria (Widodo & Sari, 2023).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is grounded in Implementation Theory, as proposed by Pressman and Wildavsky (1973). They argue that policy implementation is a complex process influenced by various factors, including the interaction among stakeholders, institutional structures, resource allocation, and the sociopolitical context. The theory identifies several critical aspects that impact policy implementation:

Multilevel Governance: Policies often span multiple governmental levels (local, state, federal) and agencies, leading to discrepancies in how policies are interpreted and executed. Understanding these layers is essential for assessing the implementation of policies in rural areas.

Communication and Coordination: Effective communication among stakeholders—government agencies, local authorities, and communities—is crucial for successful implementation. Miscommunication can lead to delays, inefficiencies, and poor outcomes.

Local Context: The local context, including cultural, economic, and social factors, significantly affects how policies are received and implemented. Recognizing these variables helps tailor policies to better suit the needs of rural communities.

Feedback Mechanisms: The theory also stresses the importance of feedback loops, where the experiences and reactions of the target population inform policy adjustments and improvements.

This theoretical framework is relevant to the study as it provides a lens to analyze the dynamics of public policy implementation within Nigeria's rural areas. It helps uncover the complexities involved in translating policies into actionable programs that impact community development. Additionally, it explores barriers hindering effective policy execution in rural development, such as insufficient resources, lack of coordination among stakeholders, and socio-cultural challenges. The theory underscores the critical role of local governments and community participation in policy implementation, aligning with the study's objectives to examine local

governance's influence on policy effectiveness. By anchoring the study on Implementation Theory, it comprehensively analyzes how public policies are implemented in Nigeria's rural areas, focusing on the interactions between various stakeholders and the local context. This approach facilitates a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in policy implementation, ultimately contributing to the body of knowledge on community and rural development in Nigeria.

Related Review

Adebayo and Adekunle (2022) conducted a study on the impact of agricultural policy implementation on rural development among farmers in Southwestern Nigeria, specifically in Oyo, Ogun, and Ekiti States. The research involved a sample of 350 farmers and utilized descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis for data evaluation. The findings indicated that effective agricultural policy implementation led to a 20% increase in agricultural productivity and a 15% decrease in rural poverty. To enhance the effectiveness of policy implementation, the study recommended strengthening government monitoring mechanisms and facilitating easier access to agricultural inputs. This research underscores the significant influence of policy implementation on rural economies, particularly its role in boosting agricultural productivity, which is vital for rural development.

Nwankwo and Uche (2023) explored the relationship between public policy implementation and rural healthcare development in Enugu State, Nigeria, focusing on healthcare providers and rural residents. The study comprised a sample of 400 healthcare workers and rural inhabitants and employed chi-square and logistic regression analyses. The results demonstrated that healthcare policy implementation improved access to primary healthcare services by 30%, although inconsistent execution of these policies hindered broader healthcare coverage. The authors recommended increasing budget allocations for rural health initiatives and establishing accountability mechanisms for healthcare workers. This study emphasizes the critical need for consistent and effective implementation of health related public policies to enhance healthcare services in rural communities.

Olawale and Adeyemi (2021) examined the role of infrastructure policies in rural development through a case study in Ondo State, Nigeria, involving rural residents and local government officials. The research included a sample of 500 respondents and employed descriptive statistics and correlation analysis for data interpretation. The findings revealed that infrastructure policy implementation improved rural road access by 25% and positively influenced local economic activities by 18%. The authors recommended conducting periodic evaluations of infrastructure projects and increasing government funding to promote sustainable rural development. The study provides valuable insights into how infrastructure focused public policies can significantly enhance rural development by addressing critical elements such as transportation and economic growth.

Ibrahim and Musa (2022), In their study on "Public Policy and Rural Education Development in Northern Nigeria," targeted teachers and school administrators in rural schools across Kano, Katsina, and Kaduna States. The sample included 450 respondents, and data analysis was conducted using ANOVA and regression analysis. The findings indicated that education policies contributed to a 22% increase in school enrollment; however, challenges in implementation led to a 10% dropout rate. To ensure the sustainability of education policies in rural areas, the authors recommended improved funding and the provision of learning materials. This research is significant as it highlights how public education policies can directly influence rural development, particularly by enhancing human capital through increased educational opportunities.

Afolabi and Ajayi (2020) investigated the effects of rural electrification policy on community development in Southwestern Nigeria, focusing on households and business owners in Osun and Ekiti States. The study sampled 300 respondents and utilized descriptive and inferential statistics, including correlation analysis, for data interpretation. Findings showed that rural electrification improved household incomes by 20% and enhanced small scale business operations by 25%. The authors suggested expanding electrification projects and improving maintenance efforts to secure long-term benefits for rural communities. This study emphasizes the role of public infrastructure policies in economically empowering rural areas through enhanced access to electricity.

Chukwu and Okechukwu (2022) conducted a study titled "Public Policy Implementation and Food Security in

Rural Communities of Southeastern Nigeria," focusing on farmers and agricultural stakeholders in rural Enugu and Abia States. The research included a sample of 360 farmers and employed ANOVA and regression analysis for data assessment. Findings showed that food security improved by 18% as a result of agricultural policies, yet inconsistencies in policy execution led to a 12% fluctuation in food availability during off seasons. To enhance food security outcomes, the authors recommended bolstering agricultural support programs and ensuring consistent policy implementation. This study is directly relevant to the discussion of how public policy affects rural food security, a vital component of overall rural development.

Nwosu and Adebisi (2023) examined the "Impact of Health Policy Implementation on Maternal and Child Health in Rural Areas of Lagos State," focusing on healthcare providers and rural mothers. The study included a sample of 400 respondents and utilized chi-square and logistic regression for data analysis. The findings indicated a 25% improvement in maternal and child health outcomes attributable to health policy interventions; however, challenges remained due to the absence of proper healthcare facilities in 10% of rural areas. To address these issues, the authors recommended increasing healthcare infrastructure in underserved areas and enhancing maternal care programs. This research is significant as it sheds light on the critical role of public policy in improving healthcare outcomes, which is essential for rural development.

Gap in Review

Research on public policy implementation and its impact on community and rural development in Nigeria has identified several critical gaps (Ajakaiye & Tella, 2023; Okoli & Agu, 2022). While theoretical frameworks are well-explored (World Bank, 2023), empirical studies focusing on the outcomes of policy implementation in diverse Nigerian communities remain limited (Eze & Chukwu, 2023). Existing research often concentrates on urban areas or specific sectors like health or education, overlooking the intersection of various public policies and their collective influence on rural development (Ajibola et al., 2022). This highlights the need for localized studies that examine the multifaceted effects of public policies across different rural contexts and how these policies are implemented and received by communities.

Additionally, much of the current literature emphasizes quantitative analyses, potentially neglecting qualitative aspects of policy implementation in rural areas (Afolayan & Yusuf, 2023). There is a limited understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics affecting policy acceptance and effectiveness among rural populations (Adedeji, 2021). Qualitative research focusing on community perspectives can provide valuable insights into the barriers and facilitators of policy implementation (Onyekachi & Ibrahim, 2022). Understanding local attitudes, beliefs, and participation levels in the policymaking process is crucial for designing policies that are not only effective but also sustainable (UNDP, 2023). This gap calls for a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative data with qualitative narratives to develop a richer understanding of the impact of public policies on rural communities (Babalola & Nwosu, 2022).

Furthermore, the role of governance and institutional frameworks in shaping public policy outcomes in rural Nigeria remains underexplored (Olawale & Adeyemi, 2023). While systemic issues such as corruption, lack of accountability, and inadequate infrastructure have been identified as hindrances to effective policy implementation (Transparency International, 2023; Ojo, 2022), there is a need for more detailed analyses of how governance structures influence policy success in rural settings (Ibrahim & Musa, 2022). Examining the relationships between various stakeholders, including government agencies, local leaders, and community members, can provide insights into the collaborative processes that either facilitate or impede development efforts (Nwankwo & Uche, 2023). Addressing this gap will not only enrich the literature on public policy and rural development in Nigeria but also contribute to practical recommendations for improving policy implementation strategies in rural communities (Akinyemi et al., 2023).

METHOD

Research Design

This study employs a mixed-methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to comprehensively assess the effects of public policy implementation on rural development (Creswell &

Creswell, 2023; Bryman, 2022). The quantitative component involves administering structured surveys to collect numerical data on community perceptions and experiences regarding policy outcomes (Babbie, 2023). Concurrently, qualitative interviews are conducted to gain deeper insights into the contextual factors influencing these perceptions (Yin, 2023). This dual approach enables a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted impacts of public policies on rural communities (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2022).

Area of the Study

The research focuses on various local government in south east of Nigeria. The selection of zone was based on their diverse socio-economic contexts, providing a rich backdrop for understanding the specific dynamics and challenges faced by communities in southeastern Nigeria (Oluwatobi & Olayemi, 2023). By focusing on these areas, the study aims to explore localized issues while drawing broader insights that may be applicable to similar regions in the country (Okeke et al., 2022).

Population of the Study

The target population comprises residents of selected individuals in various Local government of south east of Nigeria, totaling approximately 121,000 residents in the selected area, according to the National Population Commission of Nigeria, 2021.

To determine the appropriate sample size, the Taro Yamane formula is applied:

$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$

Where:

- n = sample size

- N = total population

- e = margin of error (5% or 0.05)

Applying this formula:

$n = 289,000 / (1 + 289,000 \ (0.05)^2)$

n = 399.5 ≈ 400 respondents

This calculation aligns with the sample size determination guidelines provided by Tenato Market Research.

The sample size is proportionally distributed between the 10 selected LGAs in south east Nigeria based on their respective populations, where the response from this area will be generalized.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A stratified random sampling technique is employed to ensure representation from this zone. This approach captures diverse perspectives on public policy implementation and its effects on rural development in Nigeria.

Instrument for Data Collection

Data was collected using a structured questionnaire designed to gather quantitative data on perceptions of public policy implementation. The questionnaire was including closed-ended questions, Likert scale items, and demographic information.

The questionnaire was undergone a validation process involving expert reviews by scholars and practitioners in public policy and rural development. Feedback was be collected, and necessary adjustments was be made to

enhance the clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of the items.

The reliability of the questionnaire was tested using Cronbach's alpha coefficient to ensure consistency in responses. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 or above was considered acceptable for the study.

Data was collected through the administration of questionnaires to the selected respondents in various areas within the said zone. Enumerator was trained to ensure proper understanding of the questionnaire and facilitate data collection effectively.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (e.g., frequency and percentages) and inferential statistics (e.g., regression analysis) using statistical software such as SPSS to analysis identifies patterns and themes related to public policy implementation (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Data Analysis and interpretation

Research Question 1: What is the multi-sectoral impact of public policies on rural development in Nigeria?

Rural Development in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	The level of infrastructure development in rural Nigeria is adequate.	100	120	50	70	60
2	Rural communities in Nigeria have seen improvements in access to healthcare.	130	100	40	80	50
3	Educational facilities in rural areas have significantly improved in recent years.	90	140	60	60	50
4	Agricultural productivity has improved due to government initiatives.	120	130	50	50	50
5	Rural poverty rates have decreased due to public policy interventions.	110	130	40	60	60
Types of Public Policies						
S/N	Items	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	Public policies effectively address the needs of rural development in Nigeria.	30	50	70	100	150
2	Investment levels in rural areas are sufficient to promote sustainable development.	50	70	60	120	100
3	Local government plays a significant role in implementing public policies for rural growth.	40	30	60	110	160
4	There are adequate resources allocated to various sectors involved in rural development.	60	80	50	90	120
5	Barriers to effective policy implementation are being adequately addressed.	70	60	80	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Objective 1: To Assess the MultiSectoral Impact of Public Policies on Rural Development in Nigeria

Regression

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	Durbin-Watson
1	0.999	0.997	0.997	0.16548	0.997	1.43E+05	1	398	0	2.139
a. Predictors: (Constant), TYPES OF PUBLIC POLICIES										
b. Dependent Variable: RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA										

The regression analysis for Objective 1 indicates a very strong correlation (R = 0.999) between the types of public policies (independent variable) and rural development in Nigeria (dependent variable). This suggests that variations in public policies are closely linked to changes in rural development outcomes. The R-squared value of 0.997 means that approximately 99.7% of the variability in rural development can be explained by the types of public policies, indicating a high level of explanatory power. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.997 confirms the model's robustness after accounting for the number of predictors. A low standard error of 0.16548 indicates precise predictions. The significant F-change value (1.430E5) with a p-value of 0.000 further supports the model's statistical significance. Given the p-value is less than 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis, concluding that public policies significantly impact rural development in Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What role does local government play in the implementation of public policies for rural development in Nigeria?

Multi-Sectoral Public Policies

S/N	Items	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	Government policies effectively address multiple sectors in rural development.	150	120	40	60	30
2	Public policies in education, healthcare, and agriculture are well coordinated.	130	130	50	50	40
3	Multisectoral policies have improved rural living standards.	140	120	40	60	40
4	Adequate resources are allocated to various sectors in rural areas.	120	130	50	50	50
5	Implementation of multisectoral public policies has been consistent.	110	140	50	60	40

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Objective 2 To Examine the Role of Local Government in Policy Implementation on rural Development in Nigeria

Regression

Model Summary Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	Durbin-Watson
1	0.942	0.888	0.887	1.05269	0.888	3144.701	1	398	0	0.125

a. Predictors: (Constant),

MULTISECTORAL PUBLIC POLICIES

b. Dependent Variable:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

The regression analysis for Objective 2 examines the influence of local government actions on rural development in Nigeria. The model reveals a strong correlation (R = 0.942) between multi-sectoral public policies and rural development outcomes, indicating that local government initiatives are closely linked to rural progress. The R-squared value of 0.888 suggests that approximately 88.8% of the variability in rural development can be explained by these policies. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.887 confirms the model's robustness, even after accounting for additional variables. A standard error of 1.05269 indicates moderate precision in the model's predictions. The significant F-change value of 3144.701 (p-value = 0.000) underscores the model's statistical significance, providing strong evidence that local government policy implementation positively impacts rural development in Nigeria. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis, affirming the substantial role of local governments in fostering rural development.

Test Hypothesis 2: Ho: Local government plays a crucial role in the implementation of public policies for rural development in Nigeria

ANOVA Summary

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3484.797	1	3484.797	3.15E+03
	Residual	441.043	398	1.108		
	Total	3925.84	399			

a. Predictors: (Constant),

MULTISECTORAL PUBLIC POLICIES

b. Dependent Variable:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

The ANOVA table assesses the significance of the regression model analyzing the impact of multi-sectoral public policies on rural development in Nigeria. The regression sum of squares is 3484.797, showing the portion of rural development variability explained by the policies. The residual sum of squares is 441.043, representing the unexplained variability. The total sum of squares is 3925.840, covering all variability in the dataset.

The F-statistic is 3145, highlighting the model's ability to explain variance in rural development outcomes. The significance level (Sig.) is 0.000, well below the 0.05 threshold, indicating that the model is statistically significant. This confirms that multi-sectoral public policies substantially impact rural development in Nigeria.

Based on the decision rule, since the p-value is 0.000 (less than 0.05), we reject the null hypothesis, reinforcing the significant role of local governments in driving rural development.

RESULTS

The analysis of Objective 1 reveals a strong correlation (R = 0.999) between the types of public policies and rural development outcomes in Nigeria, with an R-squared value of 0.997. This suggests that nearly 99.7% of the variability in rural development is explained by public policies, highlighting their significant impact on rural progress. The adjusted R-squared of 0.997 and a low standard error further affirm the model's precision. With a p-value of 0.000, the null hypothesis is rejected, reinforcing that public policies have a considerable multi-sectoral impact on rural development. This finding aligns with Demirgüc-Kunt et al. (2022) and Ghosh (2021), who emphasized the importance of effective public policy in driving rural economic growth.

Objective 2 examines the role of local government in policy implementation for rural development, with regression analysis showing a strong correlation (R = 0.942) between local government actions and rural outcomes. The R-squared value of 0.888 indicates that local government policies explain 88.8% of the variation in rural development. With a significance level of 0.000, the null hypothesis is rejected, confirming that local governments are crucial for effective policy implementation. This supports Birchall (2023) and Satgar (2022), who highlighted the importance of empowering local governance for sustainable rural development.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Objective 1's analysis reveals a very high correlation (R = 0.999) between types of public policies and rural development outcomes in Nigeria. This strong relationship means that about 99.7% of the changes in rural development are due to public policies, emphasizing their critical multi-sectoral impact.

2. Objective 2's results show a significant correlation (R = 0.942) between local government actions and rural development. Approximately 88.8% of rural development variability is explained by local government policy implementation, confirming the essential role of local governance in effective policy execution.

CONCLUSION

This study underscores the significant role of public policy in driving rural development in Nigeria. It shows that nearly 99.7% of rural development variation is due to the types of public policies implemented, highlighting the need for effective policy frameworks that cater to rural communities' specific needs. Furthermore, the research emphasizes the vital role of local governments in executing these policies and the necessity of strengthening local governance to ensure policy effectiveness. The study also identifies barriers to policy execution, suggesting that addressing these challenges is crucial to achieving sustainable rural development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Policymakers should focus on creating and implementing tailored public policies to address rural communities' needs, using the strong correlation between policies and rural development to improve outcomes across sectors.

2. Local governments must be equipped with training and resources to enhance their capacity for policy execution, enabling them to play a more effective role in rural development initiatives.

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