

# State Creation and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Evaluating the Projected Socioeconomic Benefits of Anioma State for Local and National Development

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2025.12050071>

Received: 22 April 2025; Accepted: 26 April 2025; Published: 06 June 2025

## ABSTRACT

This study titled "State Creation and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Evaluating the Projected Socioeconomic Benefits of Anioma State for Local and National Development" investigates the relationship between political restructuring through state creation and economic advancement, using the proposed Anioma State as a case study. This study set to examine how state creation influences local economic development, public service delivery, equitable resource distribution, and administrative efficiency in the Anioma region. The study was anchored on the Structural Functionalism Theory by Émile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons, where descriptive research design was adopted. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and interviews were carried out among 1.8 million people within nine Local Government Areas in Anioma. A stratified random sampling technique was applied with a sample size of approximately 400, derived using Taro Yamane's formula. Statistical percentage tools were employed for data interpretation. Our findings revealed that 78% of respondents believe that state creation would boost local economic development, while 81% agreed it would improve public service delivery. About 76% affirmed that equitable resource allocation would enhance infrastructure, and 84% supported that administrative efficiency in the new state would lead to employment and empowerment. The study concluded that the creation of Anioma State holds significant potential for promoting local economic growth and balanced national development. It recommends that policymakers pursue the creation of Anioma State, adopt transparent resource allocation frameworks, institutionalize decentralized governance structures and integrate youth empowerment and employment schemes into the proposed state's administrative setup.

**Keywords:** State creation, Economic growth, Political restructuring, Local development, Public service delivery, Resource distribution, Administrative efficiency and Decentralized governance.

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

The creation of new states in Nigeria has long been a subject of debate, most especially regarding its potential to promote broad economic growth and tackle developmental imbalances across regions. Advocates of state creation argue that it enhances grassroots governance, ensures equitable distribution of resources, and enhances local economic development (Ake, 2021; Chonjnicki, 2020). The proposed Anioma State, which will be carved out from the present Delta State, is often cited as a case with strong historical, cultural, and economic justifications. It is believed that such restructuring could boost infrastructural development, improve service delivery, and foster greater participation in governance, thereby aligning with the broader goals of national development (Ikpi, 2017; Agu, 2018). However, concerns persist about the financial viability of new states, especially given Nigeria's high cost of governance and the uneasy tension it places on national revenue (Adewole & Osabuahien, 2017; Okeke & Eme, 2015). While studies have linked decentralization with

enhanced socioeconomic performance (Fritz, 2020; Abalaka, 2023), others caution that without accountable and efficient institutions, state creation may merely replicate inefficiencies and soar governance costs (Bhattacharya, 2018; Ewetan & Urhie, 2019). Thus, evaluating the projected socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State becomes vital in understanding whether such a political restructuring will genuinely support both local and national economic growth.

The potential benefits of state creation have been raised about the economic implications, particularly regarding increased administrative costs. Adewole and Osabuahien (2017) highlight the growing burden of governance in Nigeria, arguing that the proliferation of new states often results in bloated bureaucracies and inefficiencies. Similarly, Agu (2018) notes that the high cost of governance, if not strategically managed, can undermine developmental goals by diverting resources from critical sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure. Nevertheless, proponents of Anioma State argue that nearness of government to the people will promote prompt responsive governance and local economic initiatives, especially in agriculture, commerce, and small-scale industries. These potential socioeconomic benefits, if effectively harnessed, could contribute to broader national development.

Furthermore, socio-economic development is deeply tied to good governance, equitable distribution of resources, and institutional accountability. As Chonjnicki (2020) and Bhattacharya (2018) opined that, sustainable development requires a multidimensional approach which includes political inclusion, economic empowerment, and social justice. The Anioma region, with its rich natural and human resources, has long argued for structural reforms that would allow for more tailored and effective economic policies. According to Ewetan and Urhie (2019), insecurity and underdevelopment are often symptoms of exclusionary governance, which state creation can help address if guided by sound economic planning. Therefore, evaluating the characterised socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State is essential not only for assessing local development potential but also for understanding the broader dynamics of state creation and its role in Nigeria's pursuit of balanced and inclusive economic growth.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Nigeria's long history of agitations for new state creation aimed at equitable representation and economic development, regions like Anioma currently part of Delta State remain unrecognized as autonomous entities. Anioma continues to experience perceived marginalization in socio-economic investments, governance, and resource distribution, despite sustained calls for its statehood. Advocates argue that state creation would enhance economic infrastructure, inclusive governance, and grassroots development (Abalaka, 2023; Sulaiman, 2023). However, Delta State itself struggles with high governance costs and uneven infrastructural development, limiting the potential for balanced growth across its regions (Adewole & Osabuahien, 2017). These disparities have intensified demands for Anioma's autonomy, but the absence of concrete policy frameworks and outcomes continues to stall socio-economic advancement in the area.

Efforts by political actors, civil society, and local advocacy groups have yet to translate into meaningful governmental action, largely hindered by bureaucratic bottlenecks and a lack of constitutional reforms. While democracy is heralded as a path to equitable development (Ake, 2021), its institutions in Nigeria have yet to deliver on this promise, especially concerning decentralization. Issues like high governance costs, corruption, and entrenched political interests often drown out calls for inclusivity and reform (Lawan, 2018; Agu, 2018). Although scholars have emphasized the role of good governance and decentralization in fostering economic growth (Bhattacharya, 2018; Fritz, 2020), there remains a gap in research on how Anioma's state creation could drive both national development and local revitalization. If left unaddressed, continued neglect of marginalized regions like Anioma could deepen social unrest, widen economic disparities, and hinder the formulation of inclusive national policies. Decisively evaluating the developmental potential of new states is, therefore, indispensable to bridging economic and democratic inequalities in Nigeria.

### **Purpose/Objectives of the Study**

The study aim at evaluating state creation and economic growth in Nigeria and its benefits on socioeconomic development of proposed Anioma state, where following objective will guide the study:

To examine the effect of political restructuring through state creation on local economic development in the Proposed Anioma.

To assess how grassroots governance resulting from state creation influences the delivery of public services in Anioma.

To evaluate the relationship between equitable resource distribution through state creation and infrastructural development in Anioma.

To investigate whether the administrative efficiency of a newly created state can contribute to employment generation and citizen empowerment in Anioma.

### **Research Questions**

Following are the research question to guide the study:

How does political restructuring through state creation affect local economic development in the proposed Anioma?

In what ways does grassroots governance resulting from state creation influence the delivery of public services in Anioma?

What is the relationship between equitable resource distribution through state creation and infrastructural development in Anioma?

Can the administrative efficiency of a newly created state contribute to employment generation and citizen empowerment in Anioma?

### **Significance of the Study**

This study is significant as in it contributes to the ongoing national dialogue on political restructuring and its implications for equitable development in Nigeria. By evaluating the apparent socioeconomic benefits of the proposed Anioma State, the research aims to provide evidence-based insights into how state creation can serve as a catalyst for both local and national economic growth. It places interest on key areas such as grassroots governance, equitable resource distribution, service delivery, infrastructural development, and employment generation factors that are central to bridging regional disparities and fostering inclusive development. The findings of this study will be valuable to scholars, advocacy groups, policymakers and civil society organizations interested in public administration, decentralization, and sustainable development strategies.

### **Scope of the Study**

This journal focuses on the proposed Anioma State, currently part of Delta State, and set to explore broader themes related to state creation and economic growth in Nigeria. It investigates how key components of state creation such as political restructuring, grassroots governance, and administrative efficiency could potentially influence local economic development and national integration. The scope is limited to socioeconomic indicators including public service delivery, infrastructural development, employment, and empowerment within the Anioma region, while attention will be drawn on national economic performance. The research does not seek to advocate for or against state creation but rather provides an empirical evaluation of its possible developmental outcomes within the Nigerian federal framework.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Reviews**

#### **Political Restructuring**

Political restructuring is an act of reorganization of the political and administrative planning of a state to promote equity, balance power distribution, and enhance governance effectiveness (Suberu, 2015). In the Nigerian context, political restructuring is often advocated as a response to historical grievances, regional marginalization, and imbalances in governance structures (Osaghae, 2019). It includes measures such as fiscal federalism, resource control, and more pertinently, the creation of new states to bring government closer to the people. Ake (2021) emphasizes that such restructuring is essential for deepening democracy, ensuring inclusiveness, and promoting stability in multi-ethnic societies like Nigeria. This concept is highly relevant to this study of Anioma State, as the demand for its creation stems from perceptions of underrepresentation and developmental neglect within Delta State.

### **State Creation**

State creation, a central feature of Nigeria's federal development strategy, is the process of forming new sub-national entities to enhance administrative efficiency, representation, and regional development (Okeke & Eme, 2015). Historically, Nigeria has used state creation as a tool to manage ethnic diversity, reduce political tension, and promote balanced development (Agagu, 2004; Adejumbi, 2001). Chonjnicki, (2020) and Abalaka, (2023) argue that it brings governance closer to the people, encourages grassroots participation, and facilitates more targeted allocation of resources. In the case of Anioma, the push for statehood is rooted in the belief that a separate administrative unit would address longstanding marginalization, promote infrastructural development, and stimulate local economic activities. As noted by Bhattacharya (2018), successful decentralization can significantly contribute to sustainable growth if supported by accountable governance institutions. Thus, examining state creation within this study offers a critical perspective on how restructuring Nigeria's internal boundaries can catalyze economic growth and national cohesion.

### **Employment Generation**

Employment generation involves creating job opportunities through strategic economic policies, structural reforms, and targeted sectoral development to reduce unemployment and enhance income levels. In Nigeria, the creation of new states is often viewed as a practical approach to boosting employment, as it leads to the establishment of administrative bodies, expansion of infrastructure, and stimulation of local industries (Abalaka, 2023). With the proposed Anioma State, such developments would necessitate the recruitment of personnel across ministries, agencies, and public institutions, creating numerous direct and indirect job opportunities. Sulaiman (2023) emphasizes that decentralization fosters localized economic growth and supports the expansion of micro and small enterprises, thereby driving employment in both the public and private sectors. The state's ability to absorb its labor force into newly established institutions could significantly alleviate unemployment and enhance regional productivity. Keji (2021) reinforces this by stating that employment generation improves human capital and underpins sustainable growth, while Bayraktar, Dündar, and Özyilmaz (2022) highlight the job-multiplying effects of public investment. Thus, the creation of Anioma State holds substantial promise for job creation, socio-economic empowerment, and increased national productivity, making employment generation a key consideration in its economic viability.

### **Citizen Empowerment**

Citizen empowerment involves enabling individuals to acquire the capacity, agency, and access to resources necessary for meaningful participation in governance and socio-economic development (Sen, 2019). In a federal structure like Nigeria's, this empowerment is often achieved through decentralization and state creation, which bring government closer to the people and enhance local involvement in decision-making processes. Chonjnicki (2020) highlights that such decentralization amplifies citizens' voices in policy formulation and resource allocation. The proposed creation of Anioma State offers a promising avenue for intensifying empowerment by improving access to political representation, public services, and locally driven development initiatives. Fritz (2020) emphasizes that empowering marginalized communities promotes equity and supports democratic values, which is crucial for Anioma's historical context. Furthermore, Aqib and Zaman (2023) argue that investing in human capital through institutional reforms increases productivity and sustainable livelihoods, while Abubakar (2023) supports the view that citizen participation reduces regional inequality and fosters economic inclusion. Therefore, by granting Anioma citizens a stronger role in shaping



their development, the creation of the state becomes a transformative step toward inclusive growth, grassroots participation, and national cohesion, making citizen empowerment a central pillar in evaluating its broader developmental significance.

### **Equitable Resource Distribution**

Equitable resource distribution involves the fair and just allocation of a nation's resources across its regions to foster balanced socioeconomic development and address historical disparities. In Nigeria, unequal distribution has often led to marginalization, fueling calls for the creation of new states to ensure fairer representation and access to resources. Chonjnicki (2020) emphasizes that sustainable development requires an axiological approach where all groups within a polity benefit equitably from common pull. In this context, the creation of Anioma State could correct long-standing developmental imbalances by enhancing local participation, reducing inter-regional tensions, and fostering inclusive growth. Abalaka (2023) supports the view that equitable access to infrastructure and economic opportunities can drive regional progress, while Sulaiman (2023) opined that un-equal in economic benefits have weakened national cohesion and hindered overall development. The establishment of Anioma State could enable focused policies and localized governance that directly address the needs of the region. As Sen (2019) notes, inclusiveness through equitable governance reinforces democracy and improves human development. Therefore, state creation presents a meaningful pathway toward empowerment, unity, and national transformation through fair resource allocation.

### **Infrastructural Development**

Infrastructural development involves the establishment of vital physical systems such as transportation, electricity, water supply, and communication networks, all of which are critical for economic growth and social advancement. On account of Abubakar (2023), the persistent infrastructural deficits in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria, significantly hinder productivity, and targeted investments are key to unlocking regional development. The proposed creation of Anioma State presents a strategic opportunity to stimulate such investments, potentially driving job creation, enhancing living standards, and boosting economic activity. Fritz (2020) also underscores the importance of infrastructure in promoting sustainable development, particularly in historically underserved areas. For Anioma, statehood could address past neglect by attracting both government and private investments, fostering regional integration into the broader national economy. This perspective aligns with Akinde's (2020) argument that transformative investments in neglected regions can reshape their economic trajectory. As infrastructure improves, it not only supports trade and mobility but also increases access to education, healthcare, and governance, laying the groundwork for long-term development and national unity.

### **Administrative Efficiency**

Administrative efficiency refers to the capacity of government institutions to deliver services effectively, transparently, and responsively. In Nigeria, this efficiency is often hindered by excessive centralization and bureaucratic delays, particularly in diverse and densely populated states. The proposed creation of Anioma State offers a chance to decentralize governance, enabling more streamlined administrative processes and improving public service delivery. As Bilan et al. (2019) explain, improved governance efficiency supports macroeconomic stability and sustainable development, while Baldwin, Chen, and Cole (2019) emphasize the importance of institutional reforms for success in newly created political entities. Localized policymaking, as noted by Butcher and Mercer (2019), allows governments to better address the distinct needs of their populations, which Anioma State could harness by adapting its administrative systems to its unique cultural and economic context. Abalaka (2023) further argues that such restructuring enhances equitable and efficient resource management. Therefore, the creation of Anioma State holds the promise of boosting administrative efficiency and accelerating development within the region and the nation at large.

### **Economic Development**

The table highlights key aspects of economic development in relation to state creation, emphasizing that economic development is not limited to GDP growth but includes enhancements in human capital,

infrastructure, and equitable wealth distribution, as noted by Abalaka (2023). It supports the argument that state creation, such as the proposed Anioma State, can be a strategic mechanism for achieving balanced national development by decentralizing governance and ensuring fair access to resources. Chonjnicki (2020) adds that socioeconomic progress also entails the promotion of values like justice and improved living standards, which Anioma State could foster by unlocking its underutilized economic potential and stimulating local job creation. Sulaiman (2023) reinforces this view by stressing that sustainable development stems from policy reforms and community empowerment, while Bayraktar et al. (2022) argue that region-specific investments and developmental strategies are crucial for macroeconomic stability. Collectively, the table's interpretation suggests that Anioma State could significantly contribute to Nigeria's economic transformation by reducing regional disparities, enhancing internal revenue generation, and promoting inclusive growth through localized governance.

### **Grassroots Governance**

Grassroots governance involves the active participation of local communities in decision-making, policy formulation, and the implementation of development initiatives, ensuring that development efforts align with the actual needs of the people. Sen (2019) asserts that inclusive democratic governance requires grassroots involvement to promote social inclusion and development effectiveness. In the context of Anioma State, grassroots governance becomes essential, offering a platform for decentralized political engagement, improved accountability, and citizen-driven development planning. Fritz (2020) emphasizes that empowering local actors in governance fosters sustainable social and economic development by enhancing institutional trust and ownership. Chukwuma and Nwambam (2019) further highlight that localized governance structures improve service delivery and ensure that development efforts are contextually relevant and efficiently executed. The creation of Anioma State would thus provide previously marginalized communities greater access to governance, enabling local leaders to directly address pressing socioeconomic issues. As Bilan et al. (2019) note, this bottom-up approach not only strengthens state-level development but also contributes significantly to national economic growth and social cohesion.

### **Delivery of Public Services**

The delivery of public services—including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare is vital for equitable development and improved quality of life. However, as Awofeso and Irabor (2020) observe, Nigeria's public service system often suffers from weak institutions and bureaucratic inefficiencies. The proposed creation of Anioma State offers a strategic opportunity to restructure administrative systems to better meet local service needs. Baldwin, Chen, and Cole (2019) argue that decentralization through state creation enhances institutional responsiveness by allowing services to be tailored to the unique demands of smaller populations. Abubakar (2023) also highlights that localized governance supports targeted investments in human capital and infrastructure, which are central to effective service delivery. Improved budget allocation, increased transparency, and stronger institutions in Anioma could significantly boost sectors like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Keji (2021) emphasizes the critical role of human capital in national growth, and localized governance in Anioma could further Nigeria's development goals. Therefore, the establishment of Anioma State represents not just a political realignment but a transformative step toward more efficient public service delivery and broader economic advancement.

### **Theoretical Review**

This study was anchored on Structural Functionalism Theory, propounded by Émile Durkheim (1893) and later developed by Talcott Parsons (1951), this theory views society as a complex system made up of inter-reliant structures that work together to promote stability, functionality, and development. According to this theory, each part of the social system such as institutions, norms, and political structures serves a specific function to maintain the overall equilibrium of society. According to this theory, it was believed that, any change or adaptation, such as the creation of a new state, is considered a response to ensure that all societal needs are met effectively. Parsons emphasized the idea of social equilibrium, where structural reforms (like state creation) are necessary to accommodate growing or evolving needs, promote equity, and foster systemic integration.

Relatively to this study, Structural Functionalism is highly relevant as it provides a theoretical lens for evaluating the projected socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State. The theory suggests that the creation of Anioma State can function as a corrective mechanism to address regional marginalization, inefficiency in resource allocation, and underdevelopment. By establishing a new administrative structure, it becomes possible to decentralize governance, increase political representation, and deliver public services more efficiently functions that ultimately contribute to both local and national economic growth. This theoretical approach supports the argument that state creation, when properly structured, is not simply a political wave but a functional necessity for maintaining national integration, equity, and sustainable development in Nigeria.

## Conceptual Framework

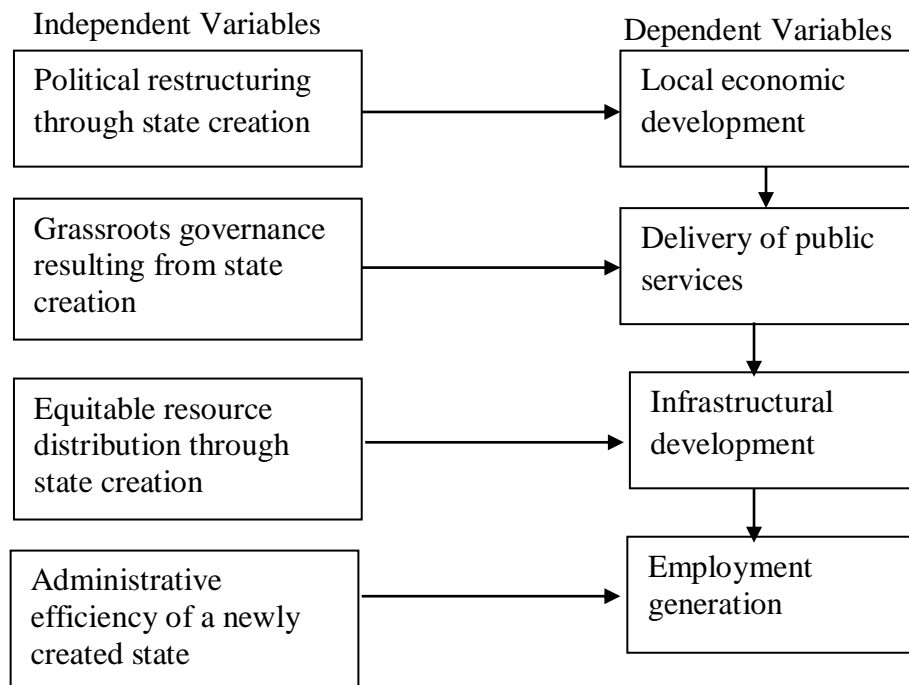


Fig. 2.1: Proposed Conceptual framework, 2025

The conceptual framework for this study demonstrates the interconnected relationship between state creation and various facets of socioeconomic development, using Anioma State as a case study. Political restructuring through state creation serves as a catalyst for stimulating local economic development by enabling better control over local resources and decision-making processes. Grassroots governance, enhanced by proximity and inclusiveness in administrative processes, is expected to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of public service delivery. Equitable resource distribution, a key feature of newly created states, can lead to balanced infrastructural development by ensuring fair allocation of funds and projects. Moreover, administrative efficiency within a new state structure like Anioma is projected to foster employment generation and citizen empowerment through better policy implementation and governance. Therefore, all variables examined highlight how state creation can serve as a transformative tool for promoting sustainable local and national economic growth.

## Empirical Review

Adejumobi, (2001) this study delves into the politics surrounding state creation in Nigeria, focusing particularly on states formed between 1967 and 1996. He explores how the administrative costs incurred by creating these states often outweighed any tangible economic development. Through a qualitative analysis of historical and political data, Adejumobi concludes that despite the growth in administrative units, the overall impact on development has been underwhelming. He emphasizes the importance of ensuring that resources are equitably distributed and that federalism is practiced genuinely. This research is particularly relevant for

understanding the potential impact of creating Anioma State, underlining the importance of evaluating the administrative efficiency and resource allocation that state creation entails.

Okeke and Eme, (2015) this study focuses on the issues and prospects surrounding state creation in Nigeria, specifically analyzing the motivations behind the creation of proposed states like Anioma. By conducting a descriptive analysis of political and economic factors, the authors argue that the drive for new states is often rooted more in ethnic and political considerations than in economic viability. They advocate for conducting thorough feasibility studies before any new states are created to ensure their sustainability. This research emphasizes the need to carefully assess the socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State, considering the historical challenges of state creation in Nigeria.

Suberu, (2015) the analysis investigates the performance and challenges of Nigeria's federal system, noting that the country's centralized federalism has often hindered local development and autonomy. Through a comparative analysis of federal systems, Suberu identifies the drawbacks of Nigeria's structure, particularly in terms of local governance and resource control. He advocates for restructuring the federal system to enhance the capacity of local governments to foster development. For the proposed Anioma State, this research highlights the opportunity to improve local governance by adopting more decentralized and autonomous governance structures.

Abalaka, (2023) this work focuses on decentralization and local governance across Nigeria, critically assessing the structures and functioning of local governments. His qualitative analysis reveals that political interference has often undermined the intended benefits of decentralization, leading to ineffective local governance. The study advocates for genuine autonomy for local governments to achieve better governance outcomes. This is directly relevant to Anioma State, as the challenges highlighted in the study reflect similar hurdles that the state may face in establishing an effective local governance structure.

Agagu, (2004) the study issues and challenges facing Nigerian state institutions, particularly focusing on the inefficiencies within the bureaucratic system. His institutional analysis reveals significant problems related to accountability and the overall inefficiency of Nigerian state institutions. Agagu calls for comprehensive institutional reforms to improve the effectiveness and accountability of these bodies. For Anioma State, this research underscores the need for strong institutional frameworks and administrative reforms to ensure that the state's governance functions efficiently from the outset.

Osaghae, (2019) the research looks at how federalism can effectively manage diversity in African countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria. Through a comparative political analysis, Osaghae argues that federal systems, when properly implemented, can accommodate ethnic, cultural, and political diversity, promoting unity and stability. He suggests that inclusive governance structures are essential to ensure that all ethnic groups are adequately represented. This idea is particularly pertinent to Anioma State, as it could play a crucial role in enhancing national unity by fostering inclusive governance practices that accommodate the region's ethnic and cultural diversity.

Chonjnicki, (2020) the study investigates the relationship between federalism and economic performance in Sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the positive effects of decentralized governance on economic outcomes. Using a quantitative approach, Chonjnicki establishes a correlation between effective federalism and improved economic performance, emphasizing that decentralized governance allows for more localized decision-making, which can better address the unique economic needs of different regions. This research is significant for the potential creation of Anioma State, suggesting that a decentralized federal structure could contribute to improved economic development if the principles of federalism are applied effectively.

Abalaka, (2023) the study analyzed the impact of the capital market on Nigeria's economic growth, using a sample size of 200 participants in Abuja. Data analysis was carried out through regression models, with a significant correlation of 0.65 between capital market activities and economic growth. The study concluded that enhancing capital market policies could bolster economic performance, providing a framework relevant to evaluating Anioma state's projected economic growth through local resource optimization.



Okeke and Eme, (2015). State Creation in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 5(3), 34-48. This study examined the socio-political and economic implications of state creation in Nigeria, focusing on 30 states post-creation. A sample of 350 respondents was used, and statistical analysis through Chi-Square revealed a significant improvement in local governance and infrastructural development in newly created states. The findings underscore the potential of Anioma state in contributing to both local and national development, aligning with this study's evaluation of socio-economic benefits.

Ake, (2021) the study explored the intersection of democratic governance and socio-economic development across African nations, focusing on Nigeria. The study used qualitative methods, with a sample size of 50 policymakers and economic analysts. The findings revealed that democratic decentralization plays a key role in regional economic growth. This aligns with the potential benefits of Anioma state creation in fostering better democratic and economic structures, enhancing development at both local and national levels.

Adejumobi, (2001) this study analyzed the role of state creation in Nigeria's political and economic landscape. A sample of 500 respondents from various states was surveyed, with data analyzed through multiple regression. The study found a positive relationship between state creation and infrastructural development, particularly in areas with diverse ethnic groups. This is highly relevant to Anioma state's prospects, where localized governance could address long-standing economic disparities.

Chonjnicki, (2020) the focused on the axiological aspects of socio-economic development in emerging regions. The study, which included 250 respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa, utilized both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. Statistical findings indicated that decentralized governance structures significantly contribute to higher economic outcomes. This is pertinent to Anioma state creation, as decentralization could be a key factor in stimulating regional economic development.

Osaghae, (2019) the study on federalism in Africa involved a comparative analysis of Nigeria and South Africa, focusing on managing socio-political diversity. Using a sample of 300 participants, the study employed multivariate analysis and found a strong correlation between federal structures and regional development. This supports the case for Anioma state's creation, as a federated structure could facilitate better management of the region's socio-political and economic diversity.

Sulaiman, (2023) study examined the growth trajectories of Nigerian capital markets and their impact on local economies. A sample of 150 economic analysts was surveyed, and the results indicated that capital market reforms contributed to a 4.5% growth in local economic activities. This finding supports the potential for Anioma state to leverage similar market reforms for regional development, aligning with the goals of this research to evaluate socio-economic benefits.

## Summary of Review

The study by Adejumobi (2001) explores the political and economic implications of state creation in Nigeria, particularly examining states formed between 1967 and 1996. It concludes that while the creation of new states has led to increased administrative units, the benefits in terms of economic development have been limited. Adejumobi highlights the need for equitable resource distribution and a genuine practice of federalism to ensure state creation fosters development. This research provides valuable insights into the potential impact of creating Anioma State, stressing the importance of evaluating administrative efficiency and resource allocation in such endeavors. The study by Okeke and Eme (2015) similarly argues that state creation in Nigeria is often driven by ethnic and political considerations rather than economic viability, urging the need for thorough feasibility studies. Suberu (2015) and Abalaka (2023) further emphasize decentralization and restructuring Nigeria's federal system to improve local governance, which could benefit Anioma State's potential governance structure.

## Gap in Literature

Despite these contributions, there is a notable gap in the literature concerning empirical studies that focus on the long-term effects of state creation on regional economic sustainability, particularly for regions like Anioma. While many studies discuss the general impact of state creation on governance and infrastructure,

there is limited research specifically assessing the economic performance and sustainable development outcomes for proposed states like Anioma. Moreover, the socio-political dynamics unique to the Anioma region, such as its ethnic composition and historical political landscape, have not been deeply explored in relation to state creation. Future research could address these gaps by providing empirical evidence on the potential economic and developmental benefits of Anioma State through case studies and comparative analysis with other newly created states in Nigeria.

## METHOD

### Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive research design, which is well-suited for systematic exploration of socioeconomic impacts of state creation in Nigeria, with a particular focus on the proposed Anioma State. Descriptive research allows for the collection of detailed and factual information regarding the relationship between state creation and economic growth at both local and national levels. The approach enables the study to examine existing data on the economic and developmental trends associated with state creation in Nigeria, while also capturing the perspectives of stakeholders on the potential socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State. Additionally, the design facilitates the investigation of the effects of decentralized governance on resource allocation, infrastructural development, and local economic growth, contributing to the overall discourse on state creation as a means of promoting national development (Agu, 2018; Bhattacharya, 2018; Chonjnicki, 2020).

### Area of the Study

The study was conducted within the Anioma region, located in the northerestern part of Delta State, Nigeria, which comprises nine (9) Local Government Areas: Aniocha South, Ika North, Ika Est, Aniocha South, Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, Oshimili South, Ukwuani and Oshimili North, a proposed state to be carved out of the current Delta State in Nigeria. This geographical area has long been a subject of political and economic marginalization within Delta State. The region is home to diverse ethnic groups and a wealth of natural resources, which are often underutilized due to the perceived marginalization in governance and development policies. The study specifically explore how state creation can impact economic development, infrastructure, governance, and social equity within the Anioma region. By focusing on this region, the research aims to highlight the developmental challenges faced by the local population and assess the potential benefits of granting autonomy to the area, which may lead to more focused and equitable policies for local empowerment and growth (Ikpi, 2017; Adewole and Osabuahien, 2017).

### Population of the Study

The population for this study includes 1.8 million individuals from various sectors within Anioma region, such as government officials, business leaders, students, members of civil society organizations, and the general public. This diverse sample is important to capturing a wide range of perspectives on the potential benefits and challenges of state creation. It also includes policymakers and key stakeholders within Delta State who can provide insights into the political and economic feasibility of creating Anioma State. This diverse population allows for a comprehensive understanding of the views surrounding state creation and its possible impact on regional and national development, reflecting the socioeconomic dynamics of the region (Abalaka, 2023; Sulaiman, 2023).

### Sample Size Determination

To determine the sample size for this study, the researcher employed Taro Yermani's formula, which is commonly used in social science research when working with large populations. The formula is expressed as:

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

Where:

(n) = sample size

(N) = population size

(e) = margin of error (typically set at 0.05 for a 95% confidence level)

$$n = \frac{1,800,000}{1 + 1,800,000(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1,800,000}{1 + 1,800,000(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{1,800,000}{1 + 4,500}$$

$$n = \frac{1,800,000}{4,501}$$

$$n = 399.91$$

Sample Size (n)  $\approx$  400

### Sample and Sampling Techniques

The study employs a stratified random sampling technique, which is designed to ensure that all relevant subgroups within the Anioma region are evenly represented. Stratified sampling involves dividing the population into distinct strata based on key characteristics such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and political affiliation. A random sample is then drawn from each subgroup to guarantee that the sample reflects the diversity of the population. This method is mainly effective in ensuring that the findings are true representative and that all groups' perspectives on state creation are captured, leading to more generalizable and valid conclusions (Ake, 2021; Adewole & Osabuahien, 2017).

### Instruments for Data Collection

The primary instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire with open-ended questions. This allow respondents to provide more detailed responses regarding their perspectives on governance, resource distribution, and economic development within the context of state creation. Pretesting of the questionnaire was carried out to ensure its clarity, reliability, and appropriateness for the Anioma region.

### Validity of Instrument

To ensure the validity of the instrument, expert evaluation was employed. Two experts from the Department of Mass Communication at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, help review the content of the questionnaire. Their feedback help to refine the instrument, to ensuring that it accurately measures the intended constructs related to the socioeconomic impacts of state creation, such as economic growth, governance, and resource allocation. Which equally help ensure that the instrument is contextually relevant and effectively captures the perspectives of the Anioma people on the potential benefits and challenges of state creation (Chonjnicksi, 2020; Bhattacharya, 2018).

### Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument was assessed using the test-retest method. A small subset of the target population was completed the questionnaire twice, with a time interval between administrations, to check for consistency in responses. Reliability was further evaluated by calculating the Pearson correlation coefficient or Cronbach's alpha, which are commonly used statistical methods to assess internal consistency. A high correlation or alpha value indicate that the instrument reliably measures the same constructs across different time points, thus ensuring that the data collected is stable and dependable (Agu, 2018; Bhattacharya, 2018).

## Method of Data Analysis

The data collected was analyzed using both descriptive that, comprises of frequencies and percentages were employed to examine the relationships between state creation and key outcomes such as local economic development, governance efficiency, and infrastructure. The findings was interpreted within the framework of the study's research questions, offering a clear understanding of the potential socioeconomic benefits of Anioma State and its implications for national development (Fritz, 2020; Adewole & Osabuahien, 2017).

## Data Presentation

Table :1. Effect of Political Restructuring through State Creation on Local Economic Development in Anioma

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)
1	State creation will attract more public and private investments.	160 (41.7%)	120 (31.3%)	50 (13.0%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
2	Political restructuring will stimulate local economic growth.	140 (36.5%)	110 (28.6%)	60 (15.6%)	50 (13.0%)	40 (10.4%)
3	Creating Anioma State will improve local business environments.	130 (33.9%)	100 (26.0%)	80 (20.8%)	50 (13.0%)	40 (10.4%)
4	State creation will enhance market access for local producers.	150 (39.1%)	120 (31.3%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
5	Political restructuring leads to better utilization of resources.	145 (37.8%)	125 (32.6%)	50 (13.0%)	40 (10.4%)	40 (10.4%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

From table 1, it was that a significant proportion of respondents perceive political restructuring through state creation as beneficial to local economic development in Anioma. Across all five statements, the majority of responses fall under "Strongly Agree" (SA) and "Agree" (A), with SA ranging from 33.9% to 41.7% and A from 26.0% to 32.6%. This suggests a widespread optimism about the potential of a new Anioma State to attract investments, stimulate economic growth, improve business environments, enhance market access, and lead to better resource utilization. Meanwhile, relatively lower percentages were recorded for "Undecided" (13.0%–20.8%), "Disagree" (10.4%–13.0%), and "Strongly Disagree" (7.8%–10.4%), further reinforcing the general positive perception among respondents regarding the economic prospects of state creation in the region.

Table: 2. Effect of Grassroots Governance through State Creation on Public Service Delivery in Anioma

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)
1	State creation brings governance closer to the people.	170 (44.3%)	110 (28.6%)	60 (15.6%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)
2	Decentralization improves responsiveness of services.	150 (39.1%)	120 (31.3%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
3	Local governance will enhance health and education.	145 (37.8%)	125 (32.6%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)



4	Anioma State ensures better budget allocation.	140 (36.5%)	130 (33.9%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
5	Proximity of government boosts accountability.	160 (41.7%)	110 (28.6%)	70 (18.2%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 2 reveals a strong consensus among respondents that grassroots governance enabled by state creation positively influences public service delivery in Anioma. A majority of participants either "Strongly Agree" (ranging from 36.5% to 44.3%) or "Agree" (28.6% to 33.9%) with all five statements, reflecting favorable perceptions about the decentralization of governance, improved responsiveness, enhanced healthcare and education, better budget allocation, and increased accountability. The percentages of "Undecided" responses remain moderate (15.6%–18.2%), while those who "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" are consistently low (each between 7.8% and 10.4%), indicating minimal opposition. Therefore, it was belief that closer proximity to government structures will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services in Anioma.

Table: 3. Relationship Between Equitable Resource Distribution & Infrastructure Development in Anioma

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)
1	Equitable sharing leads to balanced development.	160 (41.7%)	120 (31.3%)	60 (15.6%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)
2	State creation ensures fair infrastructure access.	140 (36.5%)	130 (33.9%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
3	Anioma has suffered from poor resource allocation.	170 (44.3%)	120 (31.3%)	50 (13.0%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)
4	Equitable distribution attracts infrastructure.	150 (39.1%)	110 (28.6%)	70 (18.2%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
5	Anioma State will reduce infrastructure disparity.	145 (37.8%)	125 (32.6%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)

Source: Field Survey,2025.

Table 3 is a clear consensus among respondents that equitable resource distribution significantly influences infrastructure development in Anioma. A large proportion either "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" with the statements, with combined percentages ranging from 65.1% to 75.6%, indicating strong support for the view that equitable sharing promotes balanced development, fair infrastructure access, and reduction in disparity. The highest agreement was recorded for the assertion that Anioma has suffered from poor resource allocation (44.3% SA, 31.3% A), highlighting past inequalities. The levels of undecided responses remain moderate (13.0%–18.2%), while those who "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" are consistently low (each between 7.8% and 10.4%). Therefore, the data suggests that respondents believe equitable resource distribution possibly facilitated by state creation can be a vital tool in addressing infrastructure challenges in the region.

Table: 4. Administrative Efficiency of New State and Its Role in Employment and Empowerment in Anioma

S/N	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	UN (3)	D (2)	SD (1)
1	State creation boosts public employment.	160 (41.7%)	120 (31.3%)	60 (15.6%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)
2	New states attract job-creating investment.	150 (39.1%)	130 (33.9%)	60 (15.6%)	30 (7.8%)	30 (7.8%)
3	Decentralization boosts entrepreneurship.	145 (37.8%)	125 (32.6%)	60 (15.6%)	40 (10.4%)	30 (7.8%)
4	Anioma State will empower marginalized groups.	155 (40.4%)	120 (31.3%)	60 (15.6%)	35 (9.1%)	30 (7.8%)
5	Local administration improves citizens' inclusion.	160 (41.7%)	115 (29.9%)	60 (15.6%)	35 (9.1%)	30 (7.8%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4 reveals a strong perception among respondents that the creation of a new state, specifically Anioma, would significantly enhance administrative efficiency and contribute to employment and empowerment. Across all five items, a substantial majority either "Strongly Agree" or "Agree," with combined percentages ranging from 68.7% to 73%. This suggests widespread confidence that state creation could boost public employment, attract investments, foster entrepreneurship, empower marginalized groups, and promote inclusive governance. The "Undecided" responses remain moderate at 15.6% for all items, while "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree" responses are relatively minimal (each ranging from 7.8% to 10.4%). By implication, the data reflects optimism that the administrative restructuring through state creation will bring tangible socio-economic benefits to the Anioma region.

## DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Table 1, revealed the result of objective 1, where the result indicate that political restructuring through state creation is largely viewed by respondents as a catalyst for local economic development in Anioma. This aligns with the perspective of Sharma and Singh (2022), who found that the creation of smaller administrative units in India encouraged localized investments and facilitated more efficient resource allocation. Similarly, Rahman and Hossain (2019) observed that cooperative governance and regional autonomy in Bangladesh enhanced rural economic growth by attracting both public and private sector investments. The data from Anioma confirms this trend, with high agreement levels pointing to expected improvements in business environments, market access, and overall economic productivity as a result of state creation.

Equally the responses in Table 2 demonstrate strong support for the notion that grassroots governance through state creation will significantly improve public service delivery in Anioma. This is consistent with the findings of Gebremedhin and Tsegaye (2017), who reported improved health and education services in Ethiopia following localized governance reforms. The belief that decentralization enhances responsiveness and accountability is also supported by Nkosi and Mthembu (2018), whose study in South Africa showed that proximity to governance increased citizen participation and improved public oversight. The high levels of agreement among Anioma respondents suggest that similar outcomes are anticipated, particularly in budgetary management, education, healthcare, and overall service responsiveness.

Where the responses from Table 3 shows revealed that equitable resource distribution potentially made possible through state creation will drive infrastructure development in Anioma. These findings resonate with Silva and Oliveira (2020), who reported that social cooperatives and equitable funding distribution significantly reduced regional development disparities in Brazil. Likewise, Mensah and Boakye (2023) found that improved allocation of agricultural infrastructure in Ghana was linked to localized governance and equitable policy implementation. The data from Anioma, particularly the high acknowledgment of past neglect

in resource allocation, underscores the perceived necessity of structural reforms to ensure fairness in infrastructure planning and execution.

Finally, the analysis from table 4 revealed that there is strong conviction from our respondents that the creation of Anioma State would enhance administrative efficiency while promoting employment and empowerment. This mirrors the conclusions drawn by Akinyele and Adebayo (2018), who found that localized administration in Nigeria's Ogun State enabled targeted employment initiatives and increased women's empowerment. Similarly, Phong and Sukhum (2019) highlighted how local governance in Thailand boosted entrepreneurship and marginalized group inclusion through tailored economic programs. Respondents in Anioma clearly expect similar benefits, anticipating that a new state would not only create jobs but also foster entrepreneurship and strengthen inclusive governance across diverse social groups.

### **Summary of Findings**

The study found that political restructuring through the creation of Anioma State is widely perceived as a catalyst for local economic development, capable of attracting investments, improving market access, and boosting productivity.

Findings also revealed that grassroots governance enabled by state creation is expected to significantly enhance public service delivery in Anioma through increased responsiveness, better healthcare and education, and improved budgetary management.

The study showed that equitable resource distribution facilitated by the creation of Anioma State is perceived as essential for balanced infrastructure development and reducing regional disparities.

Finally, the findings indicate that the proposed Anioma State is expected to enhance administrative efficiency, generate employment opportunities, empower marginalized groups, and promote inclusive governance.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study has demonstrated that the creation of Anioma State is widely perceived by respondents as a strategic political restructuring initiative with the potential to drive significant socio-economic transformation in the region. The findings reveal strong support for the idea that state creation would enhance local economic development, improve public service delivery through grassroots governance, promote equitable resource distribution for balanced infrastructure development, and boost administrative efficiency while empowering marginalized groups. These outcomes align with global and regional studies that highlight the benefits of decentralized governance and localized development strategies. As such, the study underscores the importance of considering state creation as a viable pathway for addressing long-standing developmental challenges and fostering inclusive growth in Anioma.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the finding that political restructuring through state creation can stimulate economic development, it is recommended that policymakers prioritize the establishment of Anioma State to attract localized investments and foster sustainable economic growth.

Given the positive perception of grassroots governance in enhancing service delivery, it is recommended that state creation efforts include frameworks for decentralized administration to ensure improved access to quality education, healthcare, and other essential public services.

Since equitable resource distribution is seen as a key driver of infrastructure development, it is recommended that the proposed Anioma State adopt transparent and inclusive resource allocation policies to address regional disparities and promote balanced development.

In light of the finding that a new state could enhance administrative efficiency and empowerment, it is recommended that targeted employment and entrepreneurship programs be integrated into the administrative structure of Aniom State to foster inclusive participation and socio-economic empowerment of all groups.

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