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Town Union governance and Community Infrastructural Development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State, 2014-2022

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Abstract

This study examined the role of Town Union Governance in community infrastructural development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State, between 2014 and 2022. The study was motivated by the persistent inadequacy of government-provided infrastructure in many rural communities, which has compelled indigenous institutions such as town unions to assume greater responsibility for grassroots development. Specifically, the study assessed the extent to which town unions have provided infrastructure and social amenities, identified the factors influencing their performance, and examined the challenges confronting effective town union governance in the study area. The study was anchored on Social Capital Theory, which emphasizes collective action, community participation, and resource mobilization as essential drivers of sustainable development. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. Data were collected from members and executives of selected town unions in Ekwusigo Local Government Area using structured questionnaires and relevant documentary sources. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential techniques. Findings revealed that town unions made significant contributions to community development through the construction and rehabilitation of roads, schools, health centres, community halls, electricity projects, boreholes, and other social amenities. The study further established that community participation, financial contributions, effective leadership, and collaboration with government and community stakeholders enhanced the performance of town unions. The study concluded that town union governance remained an indispensable mechanism for grassroots governance and infrastructural development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area. It recommended strengthening transparency and accountability, enhancing community participation, improving collaboration between government and town unions, and providing institutional support to enable town unions to contribute more effectively to sustainable rural development.

Keywords: Town Union Governance, Community Development, Infrastructure, Social Amenities, Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State.

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INTRODUCTION

Community participation has become one of the most important strategies for promoting sustainable development, particularly in developing countries where governments often lack the capacity and resources to provide adequate public infrastructure. Across Africa, community-based organizations have increasingly assumed responsibility for initiating and implementing development projects aimed at improving the living conditions of rural populations. Among these organizations, town unions have emerged as one of the most effective indigenous institutions for mobilizing local resources, coordinating collective action, and promoting community development. Their activities complement government efforts by providing essential infrastructure such as roads, schools, health centres, markets, electricity, water schemes, civic halls, and other social amenities that directly improve the welfare of rural residents.

The growing recognition of community-driven development reflects a significant shift in development thinking. Earlier development paradigms of the 1960s and 1970s emphasized centralized national planning, large-scale industrialization, and capital-intensive investments as the primary drivers of economic growth. It was assumed that national economic expansion would naturally translate into improved living conditions in rural communities through the "trickle-down" effect. However, this approach failed to address persistent rural poverty, infrastructural deficits, and uneven regional development in many developing countries. Consequently, scholars and development practitioners increasingly advocated for participatory and bottom-up approaches that actively involve local communities in identifying their development priorities and mobilizing indigenous resources to meet them (Kay, 2020).

Community development has therefore become an integral component of sustainable development discourse. International organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the African Union, and the European Union have consistently emphasized community participation as a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development. According to the United Nations (1963), community development is a process through which people collectively identify their common needs, mobilize available resources, and undertake joint actions to improve their socio-economic conditions. Similarly, Craig (1995) argues that community development empowers citizens by enhancing their capacity to participate actively in decisions affecting their communities. This participatory approach recognizes local people not merely as beneficiaries of development but as active agents capable of initiating and sustaining development programmes.

In Nigeria, particularly in the southeastern region, town unions have historically served as important vehicles for community mobilization and self-help development. Although many town unions were established during the colonial period to promote social cohesion and protect communal interests, their developmental role became increasingly prominent after independence and especially following the Nigerian Civil War. The widespread destruction of infrastructure, coupled with inadequate government intervention in rural reconstruction, compelled communities to rely heavily on self-help initiatives coordinated through town unions. Consequently, these organizations became major actors in rural development by mobilizing financial contributions, encouraging voluntary labour, attracting donations from community members in the diaspora, and partnering with governments and non-governmental organizations to execute development projects (Ezeibe, 2018).

The expansion of town union activities during the 1980s and 1990s was largely a response to the inability of successive governments to meet the infrastructural and socio-economic needs of rural communities. Despite the introduction of several development programmes such as the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Better Life Programme for Rural Women, Community Banks, and the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), many rural communities continued to experience inadequate infrastructure, poor healthcare, limited educational facilities, poor road networks, and insufficient access to potable water. As noted by Wahab (2002) and Agbola (2002), these shortcomings weakened public confidence in government-led development initiatives and reinforced reliance on indigenous self-help organizations.

Town unions therefore evolved beyond their traditional social and cultural functions to become community development institutions responsible for mobilizing resources, coordinating development projects, promoting peace and social cohesion, representing community interests before government, and facilitating infrastructural development. Through collective contributions, fundraising activities, and voluntary community participation, these organizations have financed the construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, schools, health centres, markets, electricity projects, water schemes, scholarship programmes, and environmental sanitation initiatives (Ogundipe, 2003; Onwuka, 2018). Their activities demonstrate the capacity of local institutions to supplement government efforts in addressing developmental challenges.

The Igbo-speaking states of southeastern Nigeria provide perhaps the strongest example of effective town union administration. Town unions constitute an integral part of the socio-political organization of many communities and are increasingly recognized by state governments as important partners in grassroots governance and rural development (Nwobashi & Itumo, 2019). Besides promoting peace, social integration, and conflict resolution, they serve as platforms through which communities articulate their development priorities and collectively pursue common goals. Their influence extends beyond local governance, as they mobilize indigenes residing outside their communities to contribute financially and technically toward community development.

Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State exemplifies this tradition of community self-help. Between 2014 and 2022, various town unions within the local government area embarked on numerous infrastructural projects aimed at improving the quality of life of residents. These projects included the construction and rehabilitation of roads, educational facilities, health centres, water supply schemes, electricity installations, community halls, and other social amenities. Such interventions have become increasingly necessary due to the limited capacity of government institutions to provide adequate infrastructure across rural communities. Consequently, town unions have emerged as indispensable development partners, filling critical gaps in public service delivery through collective community action.

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Despite these contributions, empirical evidence regarding the extent of infrastructural development undertaken by town unions, the mechanisms through which they mobilize resources, and the challenges affecting their effectiveness remains relatively limited, particularly within Ekwusigo Local Government Area. Most existing studies have focused broadly on community development in southeastern Nigeria without providing detailed assessments of the specific infrastructural contributions of town unions within individual local government areas. This study therefore examines the role of town union governance in community infrastructural development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State, between 2014 and 2022, with a view to determining the extent of their contributions, identifying the factors influencing their performance, and assessing their significance in complementing government development efforts.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The provision of basic infrastructure remains one of the greatest developmental challenges confronting many rural communities in Nigeria. Despite numerous government policies, development programmes, and constitutional responsibilities assigned to local governments, many communities continue to experience inadequate road networks, poor healthcare facilities, insufficient educational infrastructure, unreliable electricity supply, limited access to potable water, and other essential social amenities. These infrastructural deficiencies have negatively affected rural livelihoods, agricultural productivity, investment opportunities, employment generation, and the overall quality of life of residents. Consequently, many communities have increasingly depended on indigenous self-help institutions, particularly town unions, to provide essential infrastructure that government agencies have been unable to deliver adequately.

In southeastern Nigeria, town unions have emerged as major actors in community development through the mobilization of financial resources, voluntary labour, and support from indigenes both within and outside their communities. These organizations have undertaken numerous development projects, including the construction of roads, schools, health centres, markets, water schemes, electricity projects, and community halls. Their interventions have significantly complemented government efforts in improving rural infrastructure and promoting socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the magnitude, effectiveness, and sustainability of these contributions vary considerably across communities owing to differences in leadership quality, financial capacity, community participation, and government collaboration.

In Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State, town unions have continued to play visible roles in providing community infrastructure between 2014 and 2022. However, despite these efforts, several communities still experience inadequate infrastructural facilities and uneven development. There is limited empirical evidence documenting the actual extent of infrastructural projects executed by town unions during the period under study, the mechanisms through which these projects are financed and implemented, and the challenges constraining their effectiveness. Existing literature has largely concentrated on community development and self-help initiatives in southeastern Nigeria generally, with insufficient attention given to Ekwusigo Local Government Area as a distinct case. This creates a gap in knowledge regarding the specific contributions of town union governance to infrastructural development within the area.

It is against this background that this study investigates the role of town union governance in community infrastructural development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area between 2014 and 2022. Specifically, the study seeks to ascertain the extent to which town unions have provided infrastructure and social amenities, examine the strategies employed in mobilizing community resources for development, identify the challenges confronting town union governance, and evaluate how these organizations complement government efforts in achieving sustainable community development.

Literature Review

Town Unions

A town union is a voluntary, non-governmental, community-based organization established by the indigenes of a town or community to promote collective welfare and socio-economic development. It derives its legitimacy from communal consent, shared cultural identity, and collective responsibility rather than statutory authority. The institution reflects the African philosophy of communalism, which emphasizes cooperation, mutual assistance, and collective action in addressing community challenges. According to Nwankwo and Okonkwo (2009), a town union is an organization created and managed by community members to identify common needs, mobilize resources, and execute development projects for the benefit of the community.

The effectiveness of town unions is largely explained by the concept of social capital. Putnam (1993) argues that networks, trust, and norms of reciprocity facilitate collective action for mutual benefit. In this regard, Chidume and Nmaju (2019) describe town unions as organized expressions of social capital that mobilize kinship ties, age grades, and community associations to promote rural development. Through these structures, members contribute financially, materially, and intellectually to projects that improve the socio-economic conditions of their communities.

Historically, the philosophy of town unionism is rooted in the African tradition of communal self-help. Before colonial rule, communities relied on collective labour, village assemblies, and age-grade systems to provide public goods such as roads, markets, security, and water facilities (Afigbo, 1981). Although colonial administration introduced formal local government structures, these indigenous institutions remained relevant because they effectively addressed local development needs. Among the Igbo, town unions initially emerged as welfare associations for migrants in urban centres but later evolved into development-oriented organizations that mobilized resources for projects in their home communities (Eme, 2012; Ugwu, 2013).

Beyond infrastructure provision, town unions perform important socio-political and economic functions. They promote social integration, conflict resolution, leadership development, cultural preservation, and democratic participation while serving as intermediaries between government and rural communities (Nwobashi & Itumo, 2019; Ogunleye-Adetona & Oladeinde, 2013). Despite challenges such as leadership disputes, inadequate funding, and political interference (Onu, 2011), town unions remain indispensable institutions for grassroots governance and community development. Through voluntary participation and collective action, they continue to complement government efforts in providing infrastructure, enhancing social welfare, and promoting sustainable development in rural communities

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Town Union Governance

Town union governance refers to the organization, coordination, and management of community affairs by elected executives of town unions to promote the socio-economic development and welfare of their communities. A town is generally understood as a settlement where people of common cultural identity reside within defined boundaries, while a union is an association formed to pursue shared interests or objectives. Governance, according to Adebayo (1981), involves the organization and direction of people and resources towards the achievement of specific goals. Thus, town union governance entails mobilizing community members and resources for collective development through participatory leadership and self-help initiatives.

In southeastern Nigeria, town union governance has become an important mechanism for grassroots administration and community development. Ugwu (2013), cited in Nwobashi and Itumo (2017), describes it as an effective instrument for promoting self-reliance and rural transformation. This growing recognition has led some state governments to strengthen the role of town unions in local governance. For instance, the Enugu State Government proposed adopting town unions as a fourth tier of grassroots governance to accelerate rural development (Vanguard, February 10, 2017), while the former Imo State administration introduced the Community Council Government to promote community participation in development (Vanguard, July 15, 2012). Similarly, Diwe (2014) emphasized that the primary objective of town union governance is grassroots development through collaboration between government and local communities.

Town unions are responsible for coordinating development projects, maintaining peace, mobilizing community resources, and representing community interests before government. In Anambra State, Presidents-General of town unions belong to the Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU), a socio-political body that serves as a bridge between communities and government (Atupulazi, 2011; Ilozue, 2010). Despite challenges such as leadership disputes, political interference, and conflicts with traditional institutions (Onu, 2011), town union governance remains a vital indigenous institution that complements government efforts in promoting grassroots governance and sustainable community development.

Community Development

Community development is a participatory process through which people collectively identify their needs, mobilize available resources, and undertake actions aimed at improving their social, economic, political, and environmental well-being. It emphasizes self-help, collective action, local participation, empowerment, and collaboration between community members and government or other development agencies (Chioke, Umeokafor, & Mbamalu, 2020). The concept is often used interchangeably with rural development because both seek to improve the quality of life of people at the grassroots level through active citizen participation.

According to Ekong (1977, as cited in Anikeze, 2014), community development refers to any action undertaken within a locality with the primary objective of bringing benefits to the people. Similarly, the United Nations defines community development as a process through which the efforts of community members are united with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of communities while integrating them into national development (Mereni, 1991). This definition highlights the complementary roles of local people and public institutions in promoting sustainable development.

Town Unions and Community Development

Town unions are voluntary socio-cultural associations formed by people who share a common ancestry, cultural identity, or geographical origin and are committed to promoting the welfare and development of their communities. In Nigeria, these associations are variously known as development unions, improvement unions, patriotic unions, or community associations (Honey & Okafor, 1998;). Their emergence is rooted in the human need for social affiliation, identity, and collective action, while their continued relevance reflects their capacity to mobilize local resources for community development (Nwanunobi, 1992; Nnoli, 2008).

Town unions have remained resilient institutions despite modernization and urbanization. They provide an avenue through which members, both at home and in the diaspora, maintain kinship ties, preserve cultural values, and collectively pursue developmental objectives. Florin and Wandersman (1990) argue that the philosophy of town unions is founded on members' commitment to advancing the collective interests and socio-economic well-being of their communities. In many Nigerian cities, town unions operate under umbrella organizations that coordinate the activities of various hometown associations while strengthening communal identity and solidarity.

The significance of town unions has become more pronounced because of the persistent developmental challenges confronting rural communities in Nigeria. Rural areas continue to experience inadequate infrastructure, widespread poverty, poor healthcare services, limited access to education, unemployment, and poor road networks (Akpomuvie, 2010; Ekekpe & Ekpe, 2009). These deficiencies have contributed to increasing rural–urban migration, thereby placing additional pressure on urban centres. Consequently, community development has increasingly become a shared responsibility between government and community-based organizations. Ugwu (2009) contends that community development constitutes one of the major pillars upon which national development policies are anchored, as it promotes grassroots participation and sustainable development.

Town unions therefore complement government efforts by mobilizing financial, material, and human resources to address local developmental needs. Their activities demonstrate the principle of self-help, where community members voluntarily contribute funds, labour, and expertise to execute projects that improve living standards. Such initiative

Town Unions and the Provision of Infrastructure/Social Amenities

Have become necessary because government resources alone are often inadequate to meet the growing developmental needs of rural communities (Eme et al., 2012).

The provision of infrastructure constitutes one of the most significant contributions of town unions to community development. Faced with inadequate government intervention, many town unions undertake projects such as the construction and rehabilitation of roads, schools, health centres, markets, town halls, electricity projects, and potable water facilities. The scale of these projects often depends on the financial capacity of the community,

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leadership quality, availability of natural resources, and support from members at home and abroad (Ugwu, 2013).

Education remains one of the major sectors that have benefited from town union interventions. Communities have financed the construction of primary and secondary schools, classroom blocks, libraries, teachers' offices, and educational facilities because education is widely regarded as an essential instrument for human capital development and national progress (Ohaeri, 2009). Similarly, following the Nigerian Civil War, town unions played a crucial role in rebuilding schools, roads, markets, bridges, and health facilities destroyed during the conflict (Eje, 1988, as cited in Ugwu, 2013).

Empirical studies further demonstrate the developmental contributions of town unions across Nigeria. Oladepo (1996) found that in Kajola Local Government Area of Oyo State, community-based organizations established the majority of primary schools, highlighting their substantial role in educational development. Similarly, Agboola, Ifesanya, and Akanmu (2012) reported that community organizations in Oyo State executed numerous rural development projects, including road rehabilitation, health centres, markets, wells, and town halls. Ugwu (2013) also observed that town unions in Nsukka Local Government Area constructed health centres, provided boreholes, and rehabilitated approximately 46.5 kilometres of rural roads through collaborative efforts with government.

Road infrastructure has particularly received considerable attention because of its importance in facilitating agricultural production, transportation, trade, and access to social services. Owuamalam (1981) and Ikeme (1990) argue that motorable roads enhance agricultural productivity by improving access to markets and reducing post-harvest losses. Supporting this position, Onyeozu (2010) found that town unions in Rivers State made significant contributions to the construction and maintenance of rural roads, while Ibem (2009) identified levies, donations, fines, and voluntary contributions as the principal sources of financing community infrastructure in Ohafia, Abia State.

Overall, the literature demonstrates that town unions remain indispensable agents of grassroots development in Nigeria. Through collective action, community participation, and self-help initiatives, they have significantly complemented government efforts in providing infrastructure and social amenities. Their contributions has improved access to education, healthcare, transportation, water supply, and other essential services, thereby enhancing the socio-economic well-being of rural communities.

Theoretical Framework

This study utilized "community action theoretical model" as the theoretical framework of analysis. The community action theoretical model *was* propounded by Paulo Freire in 1973. He is a Brazilian born in the North East in 1921. He came to realize that the ignorance and lethargy of the poor people in his country was the direct product of the whole situation of economic, social and political domination.

Tenets of the Theory

1. He conceives human being in two views.

(a) One view conceives of humans as objects: they are moldable and adaptable.

(b) The other view sees humans as subjects, independent beings, able to transcend and recreate the world.

2. The theory emphasizes the need for communities to collectively strengthen their capacity to develop through education (Kulig, 2000).

Implicit in this theory is that residents in poor communities can team together to attain socio economic development (Boreham, 2004) through knowledge of town union governance. This means that community action model involves participatory action approaches. That is to say that it builds on the strengths of a community to create changes from within (Racher, 2007). Its intention is to change by building community capacity, working in collaboration with communities and providing a framework for residents to acquire skills and resources necessary for assessing their socio economic conditions (Lavery, 2005). When they have done this, they can plan, implement and evaluate actions designed to improve their conditions.

Application of the Theory to the Study

This theory is relevant to this study because it is designed to increase the capacity of community members and town union leaders in addressing their socio-economic conditions which is a factor that will positively influence development in their rural communities. The theory emphasizes the need for communities to collectively strengthen their capacity to develop through education (Kulig, 2000). The community members should come together by way of sensitization and mobilization before they can agree to embark on any project that will develop their community for the overall wellbeing of community members in Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Materials and method

This study adopted survey research design. The study area is Ekwusigo which is a Local Government Area in Anambra State. Ekwusigo is one of the 21 Local Government Areas in Anambra state of Nigeria. It is located between the co-ordinates 5 58 "24" N and 6 49 "43" E of the equator. It covers a land area of about 116.41km with a population of 158,429(NPC 2007). Ekwusigo L.G.A. is bounded by Idemili south LGA to the north, Ihiala to the south, Ogbaru to the west and Nnewi south to the east. Ekwusigo is made up of four (4) communities; Ozubulu, Oraifite, Ichi and Ihembosi. The sample size of 400 respondents was statistically determined using Slovin (1960) formula, thus, 400 respondents in Ekwusigo Local Government Area together constituted our sample size. With respect to sample allocation to each community in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, purposive sampling technique was used in allocating the sample questionnaire to different categories of people identified as relevant in the study in each community. The distribution recognized the differences in size of communities, with Ozubulu community having the highest number of persons allocated to it than other communities due to the large number of population, followed by Orafite with twenty percent of the entire population of Ekwusigo Local Government, while Ihembosi and Ichi shares ten percent each. This was to reflect their sizes both in terms of geographic coverage and the population. In terms of selecting unit observation, the same purposive technique was applied to ensure that those targeted in the sample are those selected for the study and who have information relevant for the study.

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Data Presentation and Analysis

Research Question: To what extent have the various Town Union Governance embarked on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State?

The questionnaire items for this section are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The responses to research question one is presented in table 3.

Table 1: Respondents mean and standard deviation scores on the extent the various Town Union Governance have embarked on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State?

S/N	ITEM STATEMENTS	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Decision
	Town union governance in Ekwusigo local government contribute to community development?	400	3.00	1.675	True
	Inadequate finance impede on town union governance from achieving their goals of community development?	400	3.40	.491	True
	Town union governance in Ekwusigo local government Area contribute to community development through educational programmes?	400	3.09	.995	True
	Financial mismanagement pose constraint on the ability of town union to achieve community development?	400	4.00	1.551	True
	It is the responsibility of the town unions to develop their rural communities?	400	3.76	1.627	True

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The result in table 1 shows that the respondents agreed with the items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as to the extent Town Union Governance have embarked on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State, which means that every participants was strongly behind the above notions.

Test of Hypothesis

The hypotheses testing involves a set rules that leads to a decision in the acceptance or rejection of a given phenomenon. The tool that is used here is Chi-square (x^2). Chi-square is a method that measures the discrepancies existing between the observed and expected frequencies.

Hypotheses

The formulated hypotheses in line with the objectives of the study:

Ho: Town Unions Governance did not embark on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State between 2014 and 2022.

Hi: Town Unions Governances has embarked on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State between 2014 and 2022.

Using the information from question 1,2,3,4 and 5 the hypotheses were tested.

Table 2

Chi-Square Tests 1			
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1511.265[a]	40	.000
Likelihood Ratio	1172.519	40	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	71.445	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	400		

a. 12 cells (22.2%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.84. **(Computation from SPSS 23 Analysis).**

From the Table above, the result showed that Town Unions Governances embarked on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State. V (1,40)=1511.265, If p value > is greater than 0.05, you reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternate hypotheses. It based on that decision rule that we accepted that Town Unions Governances embark on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Discussion of Findings

Town Unions Governances did not embark on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State. In support of this finding, Ugwu (2013), averred that due to the failure of all levels of government in provision of the basic infrastructural development for the well-being of her citizenry, town union governments are left with no option than to embark on some projects within their communities to alleviate the level of suffering of their people.

In the opinion of the researcher, the sizes of projects they embarked upon depend on some of these factors; the financial strength of the community, the political strength of the leadership of the community, the personality profile of the community, the topographical nature of the community, and the natural endowment of the community etc. In reference to the above factors, some communities could build markets, borehole, primary and secondary schools simultaneously, whereas others could be struggling with the maintenance of their village stream

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water which serves as a source of their only drinking water. Beginning from mid 1980s, academics and policy commentators have demonstrated profaned interest in the role town unions play in the social and economic development and local governance of communities in the third world countries.

Conclusion

This study examined the role of Town Union Governance in community development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State. The findings indicate that the inability of government alone to meet the developmental needs of rural communities has increased the relevance of town unions as indigenous institutions for grassroots governance and self-help development. Through collective action, resource mobilization, and community participation, town unions have complemented government efforts in providing infrastructure, promoting social welfare, maintaining security, and facilitating community development.

The study found that town union governance has made significant contributions to infrastructural development by initiating and supporting projects such as roads, markets, schools, health facilities, and other social amenities. However, inadequate financial resources, poor financial management, and limited community participation constrain the effective execution of development projects. The study also revealed that town unions collaborate with traditional rulers and local security groups, such as vigilantes and age grades, to maintain peace and security, although these efforts have not been sufficient to eliminate crime and insecurity.

Furthermore, the study established that conflicts between town union executives and traditional rulers, political interference, short tenure of office, and poor welfare for town union leaders undermine effective grassroots governance. Despite these challenges, town unions remain vital institutions for mobilizing local resources, articulating community needs, and promoting sustainable development in Ekwusigo Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

- **Strengthen transparency and accountability:** Community members should elect credible and competent town union leaders, while mechanisms for transparent financial management should be strengthened to ensure that community resources are utilized effectively for development projects.
- **Improve community security:** Town unions should collaborate more closely with government to establish a well-coordinated and adequately equipped community security framework that integrates vigilante groups, age grades, and formal security agencies to enhance the protection of lives and property.
- **Promote institutional harmony and capacity building:** The roles and responsibilities of town union executives and traditional rulers should be clearly defined in community constitutions to minimize conflicts. Government should also provide institutional support, capacity-building programmes, and appropriate incentives for town union leaders to enhance their effectiveness. Finally, development projects should be based on the expressed needs of community members to encourage ownership, participation, and sustainability.

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

Department of Political Science

Chukwuemeka Odumegu Ojukwu University,

Igbariam Campus.

27th June, 2026

Dear Respondent,

I am a postgraduate student of Chukwuemeka Odumegu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus. I am presently conducting an academic research on the topic "**Town Unions and the Provision of Infrastructure and Social Amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State (2014–2022)** I sincerely appeal for your utmost cooperation in relation to accepting and giving this questionnaire adequate attention and thereby giving your candid view in relation to the questions as presented to you below. I promise and urge you to be rest assured that the information/data given here shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and will only be used strictly for academic purpose of which the research sets out to achieve.

Thanks for the anticipated cooperation.

Ofomata, Emeka Jovita

2018062020

Researcher,

Appendix 11: Questionnaire

RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

SECTION A

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please supply the appropriate response by ticking any chosen option.

Example (√) where necessary.

Section A: Personal Data of the Respondents

a. Sex: (i) Male ☐ (ii) Female

b. Educational qualification of respondents

(i) FLSC ☐

(ii) WAEC/GCE ☐

(iii) OND/NCE ☐

(iv) HND/B.Sc. ☐

(v) M.Sc./Ph.D ☐

c. Work experience (i) 5 years and below

(ii) 6 years – 15 years

(iii) 16 years and above

SECTION B: Data on Variables of Subjects of Investigation

Please choose as appropriate, the answer that best suits your response to each of the questions below.

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1. To ascertain the extent Town Unions embark on the provision of infrastructure/social amenities in Ekwusigo Local Government Area, Anambra State.

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Town union governance in Ekwusigo local government contribute to infrastructural community development?					
2	Inadequate finance impede on town union governance from achieving their goals of community development?					
3	Town union governance in Ekwusigo local government Area contribute to community development through educational programmers?					
4	Financial mismanagement pose constraint on the ability of town union to achieve community development?					
5	It is the responsibility of the town unions to develop their rural communities?					

2. To determine the extent to which Town Unions raise fund for the development of communities in Ekwusigo North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	The town unions use vigilante groups and age grade to provide security for their communities?					
2	They provide useful advice as to how their communities can be peaceful?					
3	They represent the interests of their towns at the local government and state level?					
4	The town unions sometimes donate fund to help their communities during emergency periods?					
5	They collaborate with their traditional rulers to advance the interests of their communities?					

3. To examine the challenges Town Unions, encounter in the cause of development of their communities in Ekwusigo North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

S/N	Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	There is usually conflict between the town unions and the traditional rulers of various communities?					
2	There is inadequate fund to work for the communities?					
3	The short tenure of office of the town union affect their impact to the communities?					
4	The town union sometimes are apron strings of the higher government and powers?					
5	They are not well remunerated?					

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