Managing Intergovernmental Relations: A Study of Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area.

By

Philomena .I. Urhoghide, PhD
Department Of Political Science and Public Administration,
Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Nigeria.
Email: phil.urhoghide@gmail.com

Abstract

The study assessed managing intergovernmental relation using Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area as a case study. Staff used in this study was randomly selected from two government agencies and Oredo Local Government Area from Edo State. The study involved two hundred members of staff of given agencies and Oredo Local Government Area. The questionnaire on managing intergovernmental relations was used for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage statistical tool. Findings revealed the following: for hypothesis one, there was a relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relations in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government at 86.7%. With respect to hypothesis two, there was a relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government at 88.4%. The third hypothesis revealed that, there was a relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of Oredo Local Government at 90.8%. On the basis of these findings, it is recommended that government should improve on policies guiding the management of intergovernmental relations.

Introduction

The goals of intergovernmental relation are said to be able to promote peace and harmony among the tiers of government, and to accelerate the achievement of self reliant economy. In so doing, intergovernmental relations will help to minimize inter-jurisdictional conflicts among the various levels of government and also boost greater national economic integration through the activities of the levels of government. According to Olugbeni (1980), intergovernmental relations have been seen as a system of transactions among structured levels of government in a state. It is also seen as administration in which the parties are negotiating advantageous positions for power, money and problem solving responsibility. In Nigeria, of all the levels of IGR that are in operation, federal management, state and local government relation is the most contentious.

According to Chukuemeka and Uche (2005), the contention is made more complex by the letters of the constitution which make the institution of Local Government in Nigeria, particularly its creation and control a residual matter which is meant for state governments. Consequently, therefore, the adoption of state joint Local Government account system in Nigeria since the inception of civil rule in 1999 has no doubt created a lot of problems in the polity such as the contention of undue deductions by state government from statutory allocation of Local Government area and thereby hinders the intergovernmental relations between state and Local Government. Consequently, therefore, intergovernmental relations play a critical role in all areas of relationship in Edo State of Nigeria. In this light, it becomes a major concern for both the Edo State government and the Oredo Local Government to identify and recognize those factors that are contentious in intergovernmental relation responsibility to the society. Consequently, this study focuses on managing intergovernmental relations between Edo State government and Oredo Local Government.

Methodology

The following are the hypotheses on which the study was based:

1. There is a relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relation in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government.
2. There is a relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government.
3. There is a relationship between the way Edo State government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of Oredo Local Government.

Sources of Data/Study Population/Sampling

The main source of data for this study was the primary data which was sourced through questionnaire. The population consisted of all officials of Edo State Government agencies. Simple random sampling technique was used to select two government agencies and Oredo Local Government Area and 200 officials that constituted the sample for the study. On return rate, 173 questionnaire were completed and returned. This indicates that the rate of response was 86.5% which is adequate for this type of research.

Table I: Questionnaire Distribution

S/N	Agencies/Oredo Local Government	Questionnaire Distribution	Questionnaire Retrieved
1	Edo State Local Government Commission	78	72
2	Office of Auditor General of Local Government	42	40
3	Oredo Local Government	80	61
	Total	200	173

Source: Compiled by the researcher

Table II: Rate of Questionnaire Return

Questionnaire	Number	Percentage (%)
Questionnaire Issued	200	100
Questionnaire Retrieved	173	86.5
Questionnaire not Retrieved	27	13.5

Source: Compiled by the researcher

Instrument

The major instrument for the study was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was used because it helps to provide quick data for studies which largely depend on opinions and perceptions of the respondent. The questionnaire items were formulated after an exhaustive review of the relevant literature. The questionnaire, designed to elicit information on managing intergovernmental relation in Edo State Government was sub divided into two parts. Section A contains questions which seek information on demographic data of the respondents while section B consists of relevant information on some of the causes of contention of intergovernmental relation between Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area. Simple percentage was used to analyse the data collected. The data presented were analysed to test the hypotheses postulated.

Validity of Instrument

The instrument (questionnaire) was duly validated and administered in the two government agencies and Oredo Local Government sampled.

Hypothesis I

H_1: There is a relationship between the nature of Intergovernmental relations in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area.

H_0: There is no relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relationship in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area.

To test the null hypothesis against the alternative hypothesis, respondents responses were evaluated as seen in table 3 below:

Table 3: Responses on the relationship between the nature of IGR of Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area

	Options	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	70	40.5	40.5	40.5
	Good	80	46.2	46.2	86.7
	Not so Good	13	7.5	7.5	94.2
	Don't Know	10	5.8	5.8	100
	Total	173	100	100	

From table 3, the valid percent was used to test the null hypothesis. 40.5% very good and 46.2% good, which showed that a larger portion of the sample size which represented the population of the study (40.5 + 46.2 = 86.7). 86.7% were of the view that, there is a relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relations in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government Area. Therefore the alternative hypothesis was accepted and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis II

H_1: There is a relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government.

H_0: There is no relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government.

To test the null hypothesis against the alternative hypothesis, respondents responses were evaluated as seen in table 4 below.

Table 4: Responses on the relationship between intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government.

	Options	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	91	52.6	52.6	52.6
	Good	62	35.8	35.8	88.4
	Not so Good	12	6.9	6.9	95.4
	Don't Know	8	4.6	4.6	100
	Total	173	100	100	

From table 4, the valid percent was used to test the null hypothesis 52.6% very good and 35.8% good, which showed that larger portion on the sample size which represented the population of the study (52.6 + 35.8 = 88.4). 88.4% were of the view that there is a relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government. Therefore the alternative hypothesis was accepted and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis III

H_1: There is a relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of the Oredo Local Government Area.

H_0: There is no relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of the Oredo Local Government Area.

To test the null hypothesis against the alternative hypothesis, respondents responses were evaluated as seen in table 5 below.

Table 5: Responses on the relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of Oredo Local Government.

	Options	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very good	92	53.2	53.2	53.2
	Good	65	37.6	37.6	90.8
	Not so Good	10	5.8	5.8	96.5
	Don't Know	6	3.5	3.5	100
	Total	173	100	100	

From table 5, the valid percent was used to test the null hypothesis. 53.2% very good and 37.6% good, which showed that larger portion on the sample size which represented the population of the study (53.2 + 37.6 = 90.8). 90.8% were of the view that there is a relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of the Oredo Local Government Area. Therefore the alternative hypothesis was accepted and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion of Results

The analyses of the hypotheses revealed that the majority of respondents agreed with the alternative hypotheses to guide the study. On hypothesis one, data from table 3 was used and it showed that 40.5% answered very good and 46.2% good, while 7.5% not so good and 5.8% don't know. This

result showed that, there is a relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relations in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government. This finding is consistent with the position of Ajulor and Okewale (2011). On the second hypothesis, data from table 4 was used and it showed that 52.6% answered very good and 35.8% good, while 6.9% not so good and 4.6% don't know. This result showed that, there is a relationship between the intrusion of Edo State Government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government. This corroborates the position of Simeon (2004). On the third hypothesis, data from table 5 was used and it showed that 53.2% answered very good and 37.6% good, while 5.8% not so good and 3.5% don't know. This result showed that there is a relationship between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of the Oredo Local Government Area. This finding is encouraging and is consistent with that of Onah (2004) and Sobechi (2009).

Implications of the Study

The findings of this study have far reaching implications for Edo State in particular and Nigeria in general. It is an eye opener for those in government since it will provide them with a valuable insight into the nature of intergovernmental relations between state and local government, and the intrusion of state government and the fiscal jurisdiction of areas of Local Government, and the way state manages the joint account system and the financial independence of Local Government in the state.

Recommendation

The information generated would be of significant value in improving on the nature of intergovernmental relations of state and local government, intrusion of state and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of local government and the way state manages the joint account system and financial independence of local government as they relate to the study of managing intergovernmental relations in Edo State in particular and Nigeria in

general in order to achieve very good intergovernmental relations. Based on the findings, it is recommended that government should improve on policies guiding the management of intergovernmental relations with regards to; the relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relation between state and Local Government, the relationship between the intrusion of state and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Local Government and the relationship between the way state manages the joint account system and the fiscal independence of Local Government Areas in Edo State.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions emerged. The first relates to the analysis of a relationship between the nature of intergovernmental relations in Edo State Government and Oredo Local Government, which revealed that there is a relationship at 86.7%. The second conclusion drawn from this study is that, a relationship exists between the intrusion of Edo State government and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of Oredo Local Government at 88.4%. The third conclusion from this study is that, a relationship exist between the way Edo State Government manages the joint account system and the financial independence of Oredo Local Government at 90.8%. In order to attain very good intergovernmental relations in the state, there is the need for government to have a valuable insight into the nature of intergovernmental relations that exist between state and local government and the intrusion of state and the fiscal jurisdiction areas of local government and the way state manages the joint account system and financial independence of local government in the state.

References

Aborisade, O. (2006). "Assumptions for creating States and Local Governments in Nigeria", in O. Aborisade & I.O. Aransi, (eds). *State and Local Government in Nigeria: The Challenges Scene,* USA: Catawba Publishing Company.

Adamolekun, L. (1983). "Management of Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria: Problems and Prospect". *ASCON Journal of Management.* 3(2), 41-50.

Adamolekun, L. (2007). *Public Administration: a Nigerian and Comparative Perspective.* Lagos: Longman Books

Ajulor, V.O. & Okewale, R.A. (2011). "Local Government and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria", in I. Olojede, B. Fajonyomi & J. Fatile (Eds.). *Contemporary Issues in Local Government Administration in Nigeria.* Lagos: Rakson Nigeria Ltd.

Aghayere, V.O. (1997). "Dominant Issues in the Nigeria Local Government System: A Contemporary Focus". Benin-City: Imprint Services.

Agu, S.U. (2007). "Funding and Financial Management in Enugu State Local Government: Problems and Prospects". *Nigeria Journal of Public Administration and Local Government, 13*(1), 10-15.

Ajulor, V.O. & Okewale, R.A. (2011). "Local Government and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria", in I. Olojede, B. Fajonyomi & J. Fatile (Eds.). *Contemporary Issues in Local Government Administration in Nigeria.* Lagos: Rakson Nigeria Ltd.

Apata, Z.O. & Yemi, A. (2011). *Creation of New Local Government in Kogi State: Problem and Prospects West Yagha and Ijumu Examples.* Lokoja: Crestill Publishers Ltd.

Chukwuemeka, N. & Uche, O. (2005). "The Constitutionality of the Creation of Local Governments by Some States Vis-à-vis The Powers of the National Assembly in Nigeria". *African Journal International Politics and Development Studies*, 1,1.

Nwafor, T.F. (2009). *Intergovenrmental Relations.* Enugu: Unpublished work.

Ogbuishi, A.O. (2007). *Fundamentals of Inter-Governmental Relations,* Enugu: Academic Publishing Company.

Olaoye, E. (1998). "Local Government Creation under the Abacha Regime" in Kolawole D. & Mimiko, N. (ed). *Political Democratization and Economic Deregulation in Nigeria Under the Abacha Administration*

(1993-1998). Ado-Ekiti: Department of Political Science, Ondo State University.

Olugbemi, S. (1980). "A Systems Approach to Intergovernmental Relations (IGR)". *Quarterly Journal of Administration,* 2(7), 111-117.

Onah, F.O. (2004). "Inter-Governmental Relations and the Survival of the Local Government in the 21st Century, Nigeria". *Nigeria Journal of Public Administration and Local Government,* 12(1), 9-11.

Sanni, L. (2010). People's Perceived Developmental Impacts of Creating States and Local Government Areas in Southwestern Nigeria. *Journal of Human Ecology, 31*(1), 1-11.

Simeon, R. (2004). "Conclusion,' in J.P. Meekison (Ed.). *Intergovernmental Relations in Federal Countries: a Series of Essays on the Practice of Federal Governance"*, Canada: Forum of Federations.

Sobechi, L. (2009). Ebonyi Area Chief Faults Joint Account. *The Guardian,* Thursday, May 7.

Wright, D.S. (1993), *Democracy and Federalism in the USA: Intergovernmental Patterns, Policies and Perspectives in Democratization in Nigeria.* Schedule of Seminars comparing Local Governments in Nigeria and the United States, Jointly organized by UN and OAU, Ile-Ife sponsored by USIS.

Wright, D.S. (2004). *Understanding Intergovernmental Relations.* London: Brooks/Cole Publishers Inc.