

Review of: "Financial Autonomy: Panacea for Improved Service Delivery in Imo State Local Government System"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article presents an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by local governments in Imo State, Nigeria, focusing on the lack of financial autonomy. While the article offers a comprehensive exploration of the subject, several aspects call for critical examination.

Research Methodology and Data Analysis: The study employs a mixed methods approach, incorporating literature review, interviews, and personal experience. However, the reliance on the author's personal experience raises concerns about potential biases and the subjective interpretation of data. A more rigorous methodological framework could enhance the credibility of the findings.

Theoretical Underpinning: The article references the Efficiency Service Delivery Theory and multiple goal-seeking models, which are pertinent to the study's objectives. However, there's a lack of critical engagement with these theories. The article could benefit from a deeper exploration of how these theoretical frameworks specifically apply to the local government context in Imo State.

Historical Context and Autonomy: The historical analysis of local government autonomy is informative but somewhat cursory. The article would be strengthened by a more nuanced discussion of how historical factors have shaped current challenges in local government autonomy.

Statistical Data and Interpretation: The presentation of statistical data, such as the allocation of funds from the Federation Account and internal revenue generation, is thorough. However, the interpretation of this data sometimes lacks depth. The article could offer more insight into how these financial figures directly impact service delivery.

Practical Recommendations: The article concludes with recommendations for constitutional amendments and further decentralization. While these suggestions are valid, they seem somewhat idealistic given the complex political and bureaucratic landscape of Nigeria. A discussion on the practicality and potential challenges of implementing these recommendations would be beneficial.

Addressing Corruption: The article highlights corruption as a major issue but does not delve deeply into specific anti-corruption strategies that could be implemented at the local government level. A more detailed exploration of practical anti-corruption measures would add value to the study.

Engagement with Existing Literature: While the article references various scholars and studies, it sometimes lacks

critical engagement with existing literature. A more thorough comparison and contrast with other research in the field would strengthen the article's academic rigor.

While the article provides a valuable contribution to the discourse on local government autonomy in Nigeria, particularly in Imo State, it could benefit from a more robust methodological approach, deeper theoretical engagement, and a more practical perspective on the implementation of its recommendations.