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

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Abstract

It is well-written and straight to the point, just caution of the contradictory statement or what might confuse a reader like I was; the second line says huge revenue is being injected into the system, whereas line six says inadequate funding. Which one is true about the Imo state?

The data sources are presented as mixed methods, maybe excluding personal experience as it may remove objectivity in the findings reporting the scientific evidence.

Introduction

Paragraph number three claims that many Nigerians, but this is not scientifically supported. It is a general statement, which many could agree with, but it is not qualified for this piece of work, which is based on research data. Even went further to paragraph four, suggesting that people have continued to wonder. These statements are baseless until we justify them scientifically.

Local Government Autonomy in Historical Context

This section is well-written and forms the foundation of this study's arguments. It would be great to time these changes and regime changes to give a reader a timeline of these changes.

Local Government Revenue Sources

Also well-written, it might be wise to discuss their benefit or their ineffectiveness as per literature in the field. As they are, we define them without any influence on the chain of logic in the study arguments.

Management of Local Government Revenue

Similar to the above sections, this also defines the functions of these office bearers without connecting them to the main thesis of the study.

Control of Local Government Finance

This section is confusing; we have some generalized statements from the author/s, quotations from several individuals,

and defined terms, which are not organized nor adequately presented in the right place. This could be organized better. Is this secondary data or primary data, and how was it methodologically obtained?

Theoretical Framework

Despite the multiple goal-seeking models presented, there is no logical flow on how this study adopts and makes assumptions based on the Imo state sample unit in Nigeria.

Methodology

The loopholes in the methodological approaches are further presented here. I do not think the approach is clear nor adequate to provide sound data without confusing secondary, primary, and sample unit analysis tools. This is missing from this section and throughout the study.

Results

Again, three sources were used (secondary, interviews, primary data, and personal views = mixed methods). This is not done this way; this paper needs to be re-organized, and a straightforward methodological approach that gives sound data to this important study is crucial.

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4. What is the analysis of this? Only figures that are obtainable from secondary data (government reports) can be used to justify the autonomy argument, not results/findings.

Discussion

See the problem with wrong methods; the first line here suggests that it is a fact (presumably found in this study to be a fact) that communities lack amenities due to the financial autonomy of Imo state. This is a wrong claim from this study's data and results. No evidence showed this. It is easy to throw in corruption in studies, but no data was shown, or research question or hypothesis to justify that corruption caused changes to the figures; I am not saying it is not true that corruption is messing up, but this study did not search and find this to be scientifically true.

Conclusion

This is fairly concluded; maybe add recommendations to the conclusion as it is discussed within the conclusion.