



Democracy, Good Governance and Development in Nigeria: A Survey of Karu Local Area

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Abstract. The study examines democracy, good governance and development in Nigeria: a survey of Karu Local Area. Social contract theory was used as the theoretical framework. The study adopted survey research method; data was collected from the primary and secondary sources. The study reveals that Democracy has enhanced good governance and development for the people in Keffi Local Government. Karu Local Government council to some extent has provided the people of Karu Local Government Area with social amenities like roads, pipe born water, functional hospital, schools and others essential service for the citizens. The study recommends that Elected and Caretaker Management of Karu Local Government Council should consolidate on the effort made so far by the provision of more physical infrastructures like roads, bridges, potable water, telecommunications and public transport to remote villages that are yet to feel the dividends of democracy.

Keywords: Democracy, Governance, Good Governance, Development

1. Introduction

Democracy is the system of administration where citizen are given the power to elect their leader and to govern. “The development of every nation is the product of how men and women come together and harness their economic and political potentials towards such end. This development is achieved with the use of certain ideological paradigm, which serves as a cardinal force that conscientises, mobilizes, energizes and motivates both the leaders and the followers to action. The role of leadership in shaping this process is sacrosanct because it is the leadership

that the whole society looks up to for solutions to its problems” (Oluwole, 2003).

Democratic governance has come to represent a new gospel in international political arrangement. There is no nation, no matter how highly dictatorial, that does not wish to be referred to as being democratic. “Dictators in both capitalist and socialist societies often refer to their system of political and economic arrangements as democratic in nature and that their actions and inactions are guided by democratic ideals. Nation states attract global attention and respect only when the foundation of their government and structure of governance is predicated upon democratic norms” (Cheema and Maguire, 2004). This is because it is believed that democracy represents the best form of governance which offers opportunities for the citizenry to choose and determine people that will represent them as leaders in all strata of the society. “Democracy also holds a strong appeal among the masses in Africa, Latin America and Asia because democracy also offers them protection and preserves their fundamental human rights and in addition to ensure that government is accountable and transparent” (Oluwole, 2003).

In spite of the difference in conceptual and practical application of democracy, all versions of democracy share one fundamental objective, which is how to govern the society in such a way that power would actually belong to the people. It is also argued that democracy has some special ingredients that distinguish it from other systems of government. Such ingredients include freedom, equal opportunity, free fair and credible elections, rule of law and respect for due process, transparency and

accountability which can be subsumed under the word, 'good governance'.

"Good governance also entails responsible use of governmental mechanism for enhancing efficiency, growth and the overall development of a state. So it becomes clear from the aforementioned points to say that the success of any democratic political system is premised on how good governance is integrated into the governance process, enhanced and encouraged by the political leadership. It has become clear that the sustainability of Nigerian democratic depend on good governance through the management of national resources for the benefit of the citizens" (Oni & Excellence-Oluye, 2016). The basic question to ask is whether the people of Karu Local Government enjoy dividend of democratic since the return of civil rule in Nigeria.

This study seeks to evaluate the effect of democracy on good governance in Karu Local Government Area. This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- To what degree have political leaders enhance/improve the living standard of people in Karu Local Government Area?
- To what magnitude have democratically elected officials provided infrastructural facilities in Karu Local Government Area?
- What is the effect of elected officials provide basic social amenities to the people of in Karu Local Government?

This specific research objectives of the study are:

- To assess the effort of political leaders in enhancing/improving the standard of living in Karu Local Government Area.
- To determine whether democratically elected officials has provided infrastructural facilities in Karu Local Government Area.
- To assess the effect of elected officials in providing basic social amenities to the people of in Karu Local Government.

Nigeria returns to democratic rule since 1999. Since the study cannot cover all of these periods. Therefore, the study period only cover the period of five (5) years from 2015 – 2019. This is to ascertain how democratic rule has impacted on the lives of the citizenry in Karu Local Government Area during the period under review.

2. Conceptual Clarification

2.1 Concept of Democracy and Governance

"Democracy, on its own, does not connote good governance. It is not an end in itself but a means to an

end". "Deep-rooted and consolidated democracy in the form of liberalism or what Cheema and Maguire (2004) call 'maximalist democracy' indeed has been found to be able to engender good governance". According to them, "maximalist democracy encompasses "various rights and liberties that have to be associated with a competitive and inclusive system of government". Diamond (1999), "while appraising the maximalist approach of democracy, submits that democracy is a concept that allows for fundamental human rights, broadening political participation and guaranteeing credible and periodic elections".

For democracy to evolve into good governance, Linz and Stepan (1999) suggest "five inter-related conditions that must be met; the rule of law to guarantee citizens' freedoms and independent associational life, functional state bureaucracy which can be used by the democratic government to deliver public good, free and lively civil society, a relatively autonomous and valued political society and an institutionalised economic society".

Democracy has thus been recognized as the only moral and legitimate way through which a society can be administered. Thus, theoretically, scholars and international financial institutions like the World Bank have established an inextricable connection between democracy and good governance. Democracy, adequately understood, is a theory that sets some basic principles according to which a good government, whatever its form, must be run (Oluwole, 2003). Such principles include those of justice, equity, freedom, liberty, accountability, openness and transparency in government. Indeed, effective democratic forms of governance rely on public participation, accountability and transparency. In most countries today, it is these principles that are used as criteria for distinguishing between good and bad governments. In this regard, democracy not only prescribes how political power should be acquired but also what to do with it or how it should be exercised. Therefore, democracy specifies who constitutes the legitimate government and wields the authority inherent in the state (the elected representatives), how they acquire authority (free and fair elections, choice between parties) and how they are to exercise it (in broad harmony with public good) (Parekh, 1993).

2.2 Concept Good Governance

"Good Governance (GG) "... among other things participatory, transparent, and accountable. It is also effective and equitable. And it promotes the rule of law" (UNDP, 1997). GG is "... epitomized by

predictable, open, and enlightened policy making; a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos; an executive arm of government accountable for its actions; and a strong civil society participating in public affairs; and all behaving under the rule of law” (World Bank 1994).

“Good Governance (GG) “promotes equity, participation, pluralism, transparency, accountability, and the rule of law in an effective, efficient, and enduring way. In putting these principles into practice, we can see the holding of free, fair, and frequent elections, representative legislatures that make laws and provide oversight, and an independent judiciary to interpret those laws. The greatest threats to GG come from corruption, violence, and poverty, all of which undermine transparency, security, participation, and fundamental freedoms” (UN, 2013). “Good Governance is a term which becomes a part of the vernacular of a large range of development institutions and other actors within the international arena. What it means exactly, however, has not been so well established” (UNU, 2012). Good Governance “relates to political and institutional processes and outcomes which are deemed necessary to achieve the goals of social development. It has been said that is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources, and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption depending on the rule of law” (UN, United Nation Human Rights, 2016). For the governance, the inter-linking of the four Pillars (Accountability, Transparency, Predictability, and Participation) is considered to be the cycle processes of Good Governance. It means “if the governance sectors, institutions, or groups accompany with answerable, reasonable, and logical qualities in response to people depending on rules, laws, and regulations, people will find it easy, understandable, reliable, timely, and relevant” (UN, 2016).. Effective accountability refers “to people’s consciousness of what their responsibility, daily activities, and benefits are, resulting in transparent institutions and participation from the citizens”. “Transparency is vital to good predictability. In brief, the effects of accountability, transparency, and clear predictability of an institution can strongly contribute to greater participation” (UN, 2016).

“The concept of good’ in ‘governance’ is an appendage to the word ‘governance’ and it is seen as the process and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised (World Bank, 2014). Furthermore, governance includes how governments are selected, held accountable, monitored and replaced with an emphasis on the capacity of

government to manage resources and respect the rule of law” (World Bank, 2004; Boyte, 2005). Therefore, the word ‘good’ in governance connotes the proper exercise of authority, management of resources and respect for the rule of law in accordance to laid-down principles for the benefit of all in a society.

In this regard, Babawale (2007) sees good governance as the exercise of political power to promote the public good and the welfare of the people. He argues that good governance is the absence of lack of accountability in government, corruption, and political repression, suffocation of civil society and denial of fundamental human rights. He points out the attribute of good governance in any society to include: accountability, transparency in government procedures, high expectation of rational decisions, predictability in government behaviour, openness in government transactions, free flow of information, respect for the rule of law and protection of civil liberties, and press freedom.

“Governance in the context of this research is defined as the process of allocating resources, through the instrumentalities of the state, for the attainment of public good. Thus, governance includes institutional and structural arrangements, decision making processes, policy formulation and implementation capacity, development of personnel, information flows and the nature and style of leadership within a political system” (World Bank Institute, 2003). Hence, “governance is largely about problem identification and solving. It is also about social, economic and political progress or advancement. Consequently, governance has social, economic, administrative and political dimensions” (World Bank Institute, 2003).

“Economic governance includes processes of decision making that directly or indirectly affect a country’s economic activities or its relationships with other economies”. Usually, “economic governance has a major influence on societal issues, such as equity, poverty and quality of life... Political governance refers to decision making and policy implementation of a legitimate and authoritative state” (World Bank, 2001). The state should consist of separate legislative, executive and judicial branches, represent the interests of a pluralist polity, and allow citizens to freely elect their representatives. “Administrative governance, according to the World Bank (2001), is a system of policy implementation. “Systemic governance encompasses the processes and structures of society that guide political and socio-economic relationships to protect cultural and religious beliefs and values, create and maintain an

environment of health, freedom, security and with the opportunity to exercise personal capabilities that lead to a better life for all people” (World Bank Institute, 2003).

“Governance, therefore, is the manner in which power is exercised by governments in the management and distribution of a country’s social and economic resources. The nature and manner of this distribution makes governance a bad or a good one. Thus, when resources are distributed to promote inequality or to achieve personal or group ambitions, the essence of governance which coincides with the essence of politics and essence of the state is defeated” (Mogobe, 2003).

“Good governance, as a concept, is applicable to all sections of society such as the government, legislature, judiciary, media, private sector, corporate sector, trade unions and non-government organizations (NGOs). Public accountability and transparency are as relevant for the one as for the other. It is only when all these and various other sections of society conduct their affairs in a socially responsible manner that the objectives of achieving larger good of the largest number of people in society can be achieved” (Madhav, 2007).

2.2.1 Features of Good Governance

Arowolo & Aluko (2010) outlined some the characteristics of good governance:

Effective Service Delivery: Access to such basic services as education, primary health care, electricity and motor able roads is prerequisite for effective human development with a whole lot of wide reaching effects on the citizenry. Effective leadership is one that puts together and pursues programmes that are sustainable and avoid disjointed mode of planning. When sustainability is in focus, it helps to check elephant projects that are mostly momentary and designed to fail so that a few only are enriched and the target population unreached.

Employment: Nigeria, as a nation, prides itself in fact that it is the most populous nation in Africa, with every 1 in 5 black people on the continent being Nigerian. The population of the country is presently estimated at about 170million people and of this lot it is estimated that a whopping 70% comprises of the youth. However, population growth by itself does not equal prosperity, unless young people are educated and job opportunities created we will only be raising a population that is fast becoming a liability rather than as asset.

The development of non-oil sector is the key to improved and sustainable productivity. The increasing application of modern technology and non-availability of basic services sees increasing migration of the youthful population to urban areas in search of employment. Leadership must be proactive and innovative in the provision of viable alternatives, programmes and policies that would see to the effective accommodation of this impressionable population.

Participation: All men and women should have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests. Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as capacities to participate constructively.

Rule of law: Legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially.

Transparency: Transparency is built on the free flow of information. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.

Responsiveness: Institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders.

Consensus orientation: Good governance mediates differing interests to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interests of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures.

Equity: All men and women have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being.

Effectiveness and efficiency: Processes and institutions produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources.

Accountability: Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations are accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders.

Strategic vision: Leaders and the public have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, along with a sense of what is needed for such development. There is also an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities in which that perspective is grounded. Looking at leadership and good governance as defined above, it will, therefore, mean that fostering positive change for the good of the whole, based on inherently acceptable values as outlined in the

characteristics of good governance presents us with the desired leadership for attaining governance that is participatory, accountable, transparent, responsive, equitable, effective and efficient and based on the rule of law. As good as all these may sound, to the so called ordinary Nigerian, it would be free and fair elections, effective public service delivery rooted in public financial management, creation of employment opportunities, and access to basic infrastructure, security of lives and property and timely dispensation of justice.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

Gbervbie, Oyeyemi & Oluye (2014) examined the challenges of Good Governance, Accountability of Governmental Agencies and Development in Nigeria. It observes the manifestation of unethical behaviour amongst public officials as the major challenge hindering development in the country. It therefore recommend among others the need for the government to strengthen the existing anti-corruption agencies to enable them enforce proper ethical standard.

Kevreaksme, Wang, Ratanak, Keosambath (2015) examines Good Governance and Poverty Reduction in Cambodia by overviews of its Governance and Poverty Situations as the key concepts for discussion to find out the factors impeding GG, causes and characteristics of poverty, and governance reforms. The findings indicate that GG really has a positive influence on PR in Cambodia, still some challenges should be considered to enhance the governance and PR strategy in Cambodia. Actually, the NPRS in 2002 is proved to be unsystematic and ineffective. However, the main reason of the poverty retaining in Cambodia is seen in poor governance in terms of widespread corruption, limited transparency, and limited accountability of public policy making, limited control, and limited participation to public. Here GG is considered and demanded to make a significant change in the condition of the poor and near-poor. Obviously, the result of the investigation showed that Cambodia is now on the new ways of governance and PR strategy after a big change shown in the result of the general election in 2013.

Another study conducted by ONI and. Excellence-Oluye (2016). The paper examines leadership and governance: the Nigerian experiences. The study reveals that leadership and governance have been recognised as imperative for the attainment of the political, economic and social objective of any political community. The significance of leadership to governance is seeing in the fact that good

leadership sets the tone and standard of governance. The paper conceptual examination of the nexus of governance and leadership and with heavy reliance on secondary data, analyzes its phenomenon in Nigeria. Findings reveals that the history of Nigeria is replete with governance and leadership that in most cases lacked vision, mostly engrossed with corruption and political bickering leading to the enthronement of maladministration and mismanagement of public resources, and consequently insecurity, economic setback and abject poverty. A vibrant civil society committed to ensuring free and fair election leading to the enthronement of political leaders founded on distinct sound value systems and with a probe for probity and accountability is imperative if good governance and leadership is to be attained in Nigeria.

Lambert & Aiguosatile (2011) examined “good governance and democratic dividends in Nigeria: the Nexus. The study asserted that the economic problems facing the Nigerian state that started some decades ago have continued to increase despite the current democratic method of governance. Democracy is not only a political concept but also an economic phenomenon for the realization of what people now commonly refer to as the dividends of democracy. It is in this direction that this study seeks to explain why democratic dividends seem to have eluded Nigerians. It concludes that corruption inhibits good governance and by extension the spread of the dividends of democracy. It argues that to stop or reduce corruption, the values must change and the Nigerian must be rearmed morally”.

Adegbami & Adepoju (2017) examined “good Governance in Nigeria: A Catalyst to National Peace, Stability and Development. It asserted that, Good governance manifesting in areas of rule of law, transparency, accountability, citizens participation among others are sine qua non for national peace and development. However, ‘poverty of leadership’ in most of the Nigeria’s 57 years of existence has not only hindered the nation’s development, but continued to threaten its peace and stability. While it is widely believed that bad governance is prevalent in autocratic and oligarchic systems, it is evident now that bad governance does exist much more in democracies. Therefore, the study analysed the twin concepts of governance and good governance; assessed the nature of governance offered by the nation’s leaders; and its effects on the national peace and development. Using secondary data, the study revealed that, unethical practices, arbitrary rule and corruption which pervade public offices are products of bad governance. The study further revealed that,

bad governance in Nigeria has brought about unemployment, poverty, crimes, internal violence, insurgents activities, and diseases, loss of lives and properties, and underdevelopment of the country". The study concluded that until proactive steps are taken for the enthronement of good governance, peace, stability as well as development will continue to elude the nation, beyond this, the corporate existence of the nation remains threatened.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Social contract theory was adopted for this study. "The social contract theory is an old concept in political philosophy propounded by Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jack Rousseau. The choice of the theory is informed by its adequacy in explaining the origin of nature, and operation of democratic systems out of which periodic elections are organized to ensure regular turnover of leadership".

Hobbes (1588 – 1679) made "emphasis of a state of nature describing it as poor, nasty, brutish and short, because, in it, there are certain features associated with human conditions, such that equality of need, scarcity, essential equality of human power, and limited altruism. The state of nature lacks fundamental social amenities for satisfying of human needs, due to poor social cooperation to produce these basic amenities and that for man to avoid this state of nature, there must be a guarantee that people will not harm one another and government will fulfil its part of the agreement to the citizens".

The concept of "social contract created an avenue for increases benefits between the parties to the contract in areas such as political, moral values and socio-economic, that brings lasting peace to societal existences. In other words, social contract has a strong temporal dimension such as the willingness of people to work together in maintaining the contract is strongly influenced by how they view the future. Usually citizens may see little worthy in cooperation with their rulers, if they doubt their sincerity of such contract which was entered for societal development purpose to do with social security, stability and economic development and growth without discrimination".

Specifically, this theory gives an overview of how governments in an organized society are formed, maintain changed or are overthrown. It explains why people come together to avoid living a brutish, nasty and short life" that characterizes the state of nature where political authority is absent, which is commonly obtained through periodic elections in a

liberal democracy, and that elections that meet the requirements of that contract are termed as legitimate.

3. Method and Materials

This study adopted survey research method for this study. Questionnaire and secondary data are the tools used in this study to obtain desired data. Survey method allowed for the use of questionnaire to obtain data from primary sources to be analyzes using statistical tools.

The population of the study will include all adult citizens living in Karu Local government Area of Nasarawa State. Adults are citizens who were eighteen years and above. According to National Population Commission, the total population of People in Karu Local Government is 216, 230.

In selecting the sample size, base on the population of the study, the sample size will be determine at 5% error tolerance and 95% degree of confidence, using Yamane's (1967) formula:

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

Where

n = sample size

N = population size

e = error tolerance (5%)

1 = constant

From the study, the sample size is computed as:

$$n = \frac{216,230}{1+216,230(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{216,230}{1+540.57}$$

$$n = \frac{216,230}{541.175}$$

$$n = 399.5 \quad \text{Therefore,} \quad \approx$$

$$n=400.$$

From the above target population, simple stratified and simple random sampling technique was used to distribute the questionnaire to the representative population. The sample represents Ten (10) Wards that make up of Karu Local Government Area. This ensured that the sample is fairly representative in terms of geographical spread and other population demographics.

The study used both primary and secondary method of data collection. Questionnaire instrument was used to generate the primary data

Data collected were analyzed, using the simple percentage to measures significance of data collected.

4. Result and Discussion

From the data obtained, it was revealed that four hindered (400) questionnaires were administered to selected people in all the wards constitutes Karu

Local Government Area, only three hundred and sixty one (361) which represent (90.3)% response rate were completed and return while, Thirty nine (39) which represent (9.7)% response rate were not returned. This is presented in the table below:

Table 1: Respondent’s view on whether Democracy has enhanced better standard of living through constituency projects

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	240	66.5
NO	105	29.1
Undecided	16	4.4
Total	361	100

Source: Field survey 2021

From the data obtained, 240 respondents, representing 66.5% of the sampled population agreed that democracy has enhanced better standard of living through constituency projects; 105 respondents, representing 29.1%, disagree while, and 16 respondents, representing 4.4 %, could not ascertain whether democracy has enhanced better standard of living through constituency projects.

Table 2: Respondent’s view on whether any public primary school in their constituencies is built by government since 2003.

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	230	63.7
NO	120	33.3
Undecided	11	3.0
Total	361	100

Source: Field survey 2021

The data obtained revealed that 230 respondents, representing 63.7% of the sampled population, agreed that any public primary schools in their constituencies is built by government since 2003; 120 respondents, representing 33.3%, disagree while 11 respondents representing 3.0 % cannot not ascertain whether any public primary school in the constituencies has been built by government since 2003.

Table 3: Respondent’s view on whether graduate in their constituencies have gained meaningful employment in government establishment.

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	220	60.9
NO	100	27.7
Undecided	41	11.4
Total	361	100

Source: Field survey 2021

The data obtained, 220 respondents, representing 60.9% of the sampled population, agreed that graduate in their constituencies have gained meaningful employment in government establishment. 100 respondents representing 27.7% disagreed while 41 respondents representing 11.4% could not ascertain whether graduate in their constituencies have gained meaningful employment in government establishment.

Table 4: Respondent’s view on whether government has provided any modern market in their constituencies.

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	00	00.0
NO	300	83.1
Undecided	61	16.9
Total	361	100

Source: Field survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 0 respondents, representing 0.0% of the sampled population agreed that government provided no modern market in their constituencies; 300 respondents, representing 83.1% disagreed while 61 respondents, representing 16.9 % cannot ascertain whether government provided any modern market in the constituencies.

Table 5: Respondent’s view on whether government has provided electricity for their constituencies

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	260	72.0
NO	71	19.7
Undecided	30	8.3
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 260 respondents, representing 72.0% of the sampled population, agreed that government provided electricity for their constituencies; 70 respondents representing 19.7% disagreed while 30 respondents representing 8.3% could not ascertain whether government has provided electricity for the constituencies.

Table 6: Respondent’s view on whether there is any improvement in electricity supply

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	80	22.2
NO	261	72.3
Undecided	20	5.5
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 80 respondents representing 22.2% of the sampled population, agreed that there is improvement in electricity supply, 261 respondents, representing 72.3% disagreed while 20 respondents, representing 5.5% could not ascertain whether there was any improvement in electricity supply.

Table 7: Respondent’s view on whether government has constructed or rehabilitated some roads in their constituencies.

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	190	52.6
NO	150	41.6
Undecided	21	5.8
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 190 respondents, representing 52.6% of the sampled population, agreed that government constructed or rehabilitated some roads in their constituency, 150 respondents representing 41.6% disagree while, 21 respondents representing 5.8% cannot government has construct or rehabilitate some roads in the constituencies.

Table 8: Respondent’s view on whether government has provided their constituencies with Pipe-born Water or Borehole

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	186	51.5
NO	165	45.7
Undecided	10	2.8
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 186 respondents representing 51.5% of the sampled population, agreed that government has provided their constituencies with pipe born water or borehole, 165 respondents, representing 45.7% disagreed while, 10 respondents representing 2.8% could not ascertain government provided the constituency with pipe born water or borehole.

Table 9: Respondent’s view on whether their constituencies has Access to Telecommunication Services

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	290	80.3
NO	61	16.9
Undecided	9	2.5
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 290 respondents, representing 80.3% of the sampled population, agreed that constituency has access to telecommunication services and post office service, 61 respondents, representing 16.9%

disagreed while, 9 respondents representing 2.5% could not ascertain whether the constituency has access to telecommunication services and post office service.

Table 10: Respondent’s view on whether government had provided Agricultural inputs, like fertilizers and chemicals to farmers in this constituency for improved food output

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	30	8.3
NO	150	41.6
Undecided	181	50.1
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 30 respondents representing 8.3% of the sampled population, agreed that government has provided agricultural inputs, like fertilizers and chemicals to farmers in this constituency for improved food output, 150 respondents representing 41.6% disagreed while 181 respondents, representing 50.1% could not ascertain whether government has provided Agricultural inputs, like fertilizers and chemicals to farmers in the constituency for improved food output because they are not farmers.

Table 11: Respondent’s view on whether there is any improvement in Healthcare Delivery system in their community

Variables	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
YES	211	58.4
NO	100	27.7
Undecided	50	13.9
Total	361	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

The data obtained, revealed that 211 respondents representing 58.4 of the sample population agreed that healthcare system delivery has improved in their community, 100 respondents representing 27.7% disagree while, 50 respondents representing 13.9% could not ascertain whether there is improvement in healthcare delivery system in this community.

Finding From analysis shows that democracy has positive effect on good governance in Karu Local government, This finding is in line with the view Linz and Stepan (1999) who reveals that, democracy evolved into good governance, suggest five inter-related conditions that must be met; the rule of law to guarantee citizens’ freedoms and independent associational life, functional state bureaucracy which can be used by the democratic government to deliver public good, free and lively civil society, a relatively autonomous and valued political society and an institutionalised economic society. He therefore reveals that Political participation is synonymous to good governance. Political participation, which includes citizens’ involvement in the decision making process, contribution to public debate on national issues and voting, needs to be encouraged we can be concluding that democracy as well as good governance is actually working in Karu Local government Area Council. The study further shows that, Democracy has enhanced better standard of living in KLG through constituency project and more also, that political office holders in KLG are

accountable to their people and The Local government at all levels has provided menial job through agencies like NDE. The government since return of democracy has provided social amenities like roads, pipe-born water, functional hospital, schools and others essential service are been provided for the citizens. We can deduce that people in Karu Local Government Area are enjoying democratic dividends under the democracy.

The study further shows that, Karu Local Government has made great impact in term of efficiency service delivery. Many primary health care as been established and the existing one has been equipped by both the federal, State and the Local government.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

One of the most powerful ideas in development in recent years has been good governance. At its most basic, good governance describes all the things governments do in order to allow development to happen. Checklists of good governance have usually contained elements such as transparency, accountability and the practice of democracy and the rule of law. In this sense, good governance in Karu Local Government Area is about having Local institutions that makes fair and appropriate decisions about how a locally is governed, and effective systems put in place to deliver public services.

The study concludes that, Karu Local Government Area to some extent has reduce the pressure on federal and state government by providing social amenities to the people of the Area. Elected officials to some extent have provided the communities with social amenities such as bore holes waters, electricity through provision of transformers, bridges and drainages etc.

The Karu Local Government to some extent are more concerned with the provision of potable water projects which can ameliorate the situation of the rural dwellers and various white elephant projects called water schemes has been executed in the area.

Government needs to be reminded that provision of good road network that would link the rural areas with the major cities has the potentials to enhance the economy of the rural areas mostly populated by farmers.

Good governance and utilization of the people will enhance productivity and the quality of live.

There is no gain saying that the deepest root of development failure is not a lack of resource for development; rather, it is lack of good governance the inability or unwillingness to apply public resources effectively to generate public goods and services. The following recommendation flow from the study and are therefore made:

- Elected and Caretaker Management of Karu Local Government Council should consolidate on the effort made so far by the provision of more physical infrastructures like roads, bridges, potable water, telecommunications and public transport to remote villages that are yet to feel the dividends of democracy.
- Since transparency, the openness of the state business and conduct focus on the relationship between state actors and the general public. Democratic administrations should manifest the spirit of accountability, responsibility and responsiveness to ensure good governance in Nigeria.
- Since good governance is bound up by the existence of the rule of law, governance can only be good and effective when it is restrained by law, when the law is applied equally to the mighty and the meek, and when there are professional independent authorities to enforce the law in a neutral and predictable fashion. Only this will ensure social justices in economic, social and political life.

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