

# ANALYSIS OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES IN OGBADIBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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## ABSTRACT

*There is a growing demand for the development of infrastructural facilities because they are critical to economic growth. It becomes imperative to have a good knowledge about the phenomenon. The study aimed at analyzing the rural infrastructural facilities in Ogbadibo local government area of Benue State, Nigeria. Five wards were purposively selected for the study namely, Ai-oodo, Ai-oono, Ehaje, Itabono and Orakam. Primary data were collected from 393 respondents through the administration of questionnaire among randomly selected households. The descriptive statistical technique was used to summarize the data. Also, standardized scores (Z-score) was employed to measure level of variation in the distribution of the rural infrastructural facilities. It was discovered that Orakam (4.01) was most privileged while Itabono (-5.51) was least privileged in social infrastructure. Regarding physical infrastructure, both Orakam (1.81) and Ai-oono (0.52) were having more of the facilities while the remaining wards were under-privileged. On institutional infrastructure, it is only Orakam (5.0) that was advantaged while other wards were at disadvantaged. On the basis of the findings, it is recommended that there should be social justice and fair-play in the distribution of essential services. Also, government can encourage communal self-help projects by giving technical and financial assistance thereby reducing community over-dependence on government to provide everything that they need.*

**Keywords:** Rural, Infrastructural Facilities, Ogbadibo Local Government Area

## INTRODUCTION

Infrastructural facilities are basic amenities required to make human settlements habitable and economically productive. In a broad term, they include telecommunication, transportation, health services, education, sanitation, energy and urban development control systems (Henderson, Shalizi and Venable, 2001). Attempts have been made to classify infrastructure into three namely, physical such as roads water, rural electrification, storage and processing facilities; social infrastructure namely, health and educational facilities, community fire and security services and institutional infrastructure which includes credit and financial institutions, and agricultural research facilities (Ogbuozobe, 1997) It is perceived that the adequate provision of these types of infrastructure will enhance rapid socio-economic transformation in the rural areas (Jerome and Ariyo, 2004).

The majority of Nigeria's population is rural and they constitute the economic base for the production of food and fiber. They are also the major sources of capital formation for the country, and a principal market for domestic manufactured products. Despite the important roles of rural areas, most are not attractive to live in. There is absence of basic infrastructure such as potable water, electricity and good feeder roads which could impact positively on the quality of life (Olayiwola and Adeleke, 2005).

The availability of infrastructural facilities has been responsible for the physical, economic and social development of most rural communities (Felix, 2002). However, most attempts made at ensuring that these facilities are adequately provided in all rural settlements have often been hindered by financial, administrative and political bottlenecks. It is necessary for the government to be sensitive to the different ecological situations and seek to develop the communities along a direction the rural people can appreciate. The villagers by their nature lack the fund, resources and political power to provide the needed infrastructural facilities (Akinola, 2007).

A major problem has been the attainment of threshold population for sustaining the infrastructural provision. For instance, some communities where facilities such as schools and hospitals have been provided have witnessed the closure of these facilities due to inability to reach threshold population. However, consideration must be given to the current social, educational, medical, and financial policies of the government and development needs of settlements (Giannias and Liagovas, 2002). Equitable development in a developing country like Nigeria should be seen as a policy thrust that involves the relationship between the public and private sector participation in the development process. Olayiwola and Adeleke, (2005) had remarked that if rural infrastructural facilities are provided it can enhance the quality of rural life but rural people have not benefited much from rural development programs initiated by the government

Infrastructural facilities are considered as catalyst for development. However, despite the importance attached to these facilities, there is negligence on the part of the government at all levels, private sector and community to make them readily available (Cowen and Shenton, 1996). Serious concern for rural development at the national level was first highlighted in the Third National Development plan (1975-80). It emphasized the need to reduce regional disparities in order to foster national unity through the adoption of integrated rural development.

Infrastructure is known to impact welfare in some aspects. It has basic consumption value and as such affects utility derived from existing and budgeted income. Its availability affects productivity and capacity to earn income which is of concern in rural agriculture. It also affects households and national stock of real wealth in the entire economy and has multiple effects on health and quality of life (Kessides, 1993; Alaba, 2001). Lack of adequate access to basic facilities is one of the major factors responsible for high incidence of poverty in rural areas. FAO (2005) had pointed out that efficient distribution of infrastructure has ability to reduce the cost of marketing agricultural products (Ashok and Balasubramaman, 2003). The spatial variation and accessibility to infrastructure is responsible for disparities in standards of living either within or among regions (Madu. 2007).

Adefila (2008) examined the level of spatial balance in the distribution of infrastructural facilities in Benue State. The study employed standardized scores (Z-score) and revealed a wide disparity in infrastructural development among administrative units in the State. It showed a tendency towards a core-periphery spatial pattern of development in spite of the desired national goal of achieving an egalitarian society. The study recommends an increased investment in the provision of basic infrastructural facilities in favour of lagging regions

Olajuyin, Olayiwola and Adeyinka (2007) investigated the effect of location on the utilization of healthcare facilities in Irewole Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. The study found that healthcare facilities were unevenly distributed among the settlements and that the

distance was a paramount factor. Accessibility to health care facilities has generally been identified as a major indicator of development and the existing spatial pattern of distribution of health care facilities play very prominent role in gauging the level of efficiency. The location quotient (LQ) technique was employed to examine the distribution of health care facilities in the state. It recommends urgent need for serious government intervention in the provision of health care facilities with a focus on equitable distribution and accessibility to enhance balanced development.

Inyang and Raji, (2000) examined relationship between accessibility and the location of socio-economic activities in Kwara State and discovered a strong relationship between the two variables. The result shows that accessibility was statistically significant and a strong determinant of the distribution of socio-economic activities. It shows that uneven distribution of public facilities will eventually affect its patronage. In addition, when public facility such as educational facility is unevenly distributed in a region, there is every tendency that such facility will be under-utilized or otherwise, and the people to be serviced become disadvantaged in the use of such facility.

However, in the study area there is dearth of knowledge on the spatial distribution, condition, major types of infrastructural facilities, the processes of resource mobilization and challenges facing the rural infrastructural facilities and this forms the focus of present study.

## **STUDY AREA**

Ogbadibo LGA is located approximately between latitudes  $6^{\circ} 51' - 7^{\circ} 09''$  and longitudes  $7^{\circ} 02'' - 7^{\circ} 20''$ . It has a total area of about 30 Sq Km and lies diagonally from northwest to south east direction of Benue state. The LGA is bounded to the north by Kogi state, to the east is Okpokwu LGA while Enugu state is to the south. Ogbadibo LGA is rural (agrarian) in nature and characteristics and shares most of the physical and social elements with Benue state at large. The climatic-vegetal characteristics is that of forest savanna with about 6-8 months of rainfall of between 1200-1500 mm. Temperature is high all year round with a maximum of about  $33^{\circ}\text{C}$  (the hot humid season) and a minimum of about  $21.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  (cold dry season). Indigenous tree species include mahogany, oil palm, Iroko among others.

The population as at 2006 was 130,988 (NPC 2006) and was projected to 164, 944 for 2014. The LGA is inhabited by the Idoma who are mostly Christians. Established in 1991 though, Ogbadibo LGA like other areas of Benue state suffer from infrastructural deficiency as commonest infrastructure includes transportation (roads, culverts, motor parks) ; commercial (markets, lock up stalls); educational and communal infrastructure such as town halls, water supply projects, healthcare centres among others. All these have varying degree of concentrations in different wards across the LGA.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A variety of data were collected such as socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, types of infrastructural facilities, spatial distribution, processes of resource mobilization, the maintenance and the constraints to infrastructure development in the study area. The primary sources of data include administration of questionnaire as a major research instrument as well as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and field observation. The secondary sources of data used include journals, official gazettes, annual reports, published conference proceedings, unpublished articles, books and on-line materials. In selecting sample for the study, the

population of the study area 55,785 (NPC, 2006) was projected to 82,365 in 2014 with a growth rate of 2.9%. Yamane (1967) and Uzoagulu (1998) sampling formula was adopted to determine the sample size for the study. The formula is stated as:-

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

Where:- SS = sample size; N = finite population of the study area; e = level of significance (0.05), and 1 is constant.

It gives an approximate 400 sample size. A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted. First, five out of ten wards namely, Ai-oodo, Ai-oono, Ehaje, Itabono, and Orakam were purposively selected because the wards shared similar characteristics (see Table 1). Second, involves the random selection of the households where upon 393 samples were taken for the purpose of questionnaire administration. The remaining seven samples were not returned. The sample size for each ward was proportionately distributed according to population size.

**Table 1: Distribution of Samples among the Selected Wards**

S/No.	Selected Wards	Population of Selected Wards (2006)	Projected Population (2014)	Sample Size
1	Ai-oono	10,650	13,419	65
2	Ai-oodo	11,220	14,137	69
3	Ehaje	10,660	13,431	65
4	Itahono	10,900	13,734	67
5	Orakam	21,910	27,644	133
		55,785	82,365	400

Source: Adapted From National Population Commission (2006)

Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as averages, frequency counts and percentages to summarize the data. The Standardized score (Z-score) technique was employed to analyze the spatial distribution of the rural infrastructural facilities in the study area. The use of Z-score makes it possible to clearly identify the values of each unit after the scores were standardized so that the mean became zero and the standard deviation became unit of measurement. The zero mean forms the base line for comparing departure scores of observations on a given variable. The wards form the units of observation in this study. It has been successfully used by Adefila, (2008); Ifabiyi, (2011) and Aderamo and Aina (2011). The technique is popular for its simplicity, elegance, and affords the opportunity to rank the unit areas in accordance with their performance in the distribution of a facility.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were investigated in the study area and the results are presented in Table 2 and Figures 1-4. The revelation is the majority 50.9% of the respondents were females, and 49.1% were males. It shows almost equal distribution of the gender in the study area. Considering the marital status about 53.2% of the respondents were single, while 43%, 2.3%, 1.6% were married, separated and divorced respectively. It indicates the importance attached to marriage as an institution in the study area. Abumere (2002) had remarked that people who got married at very late age are often deprived of

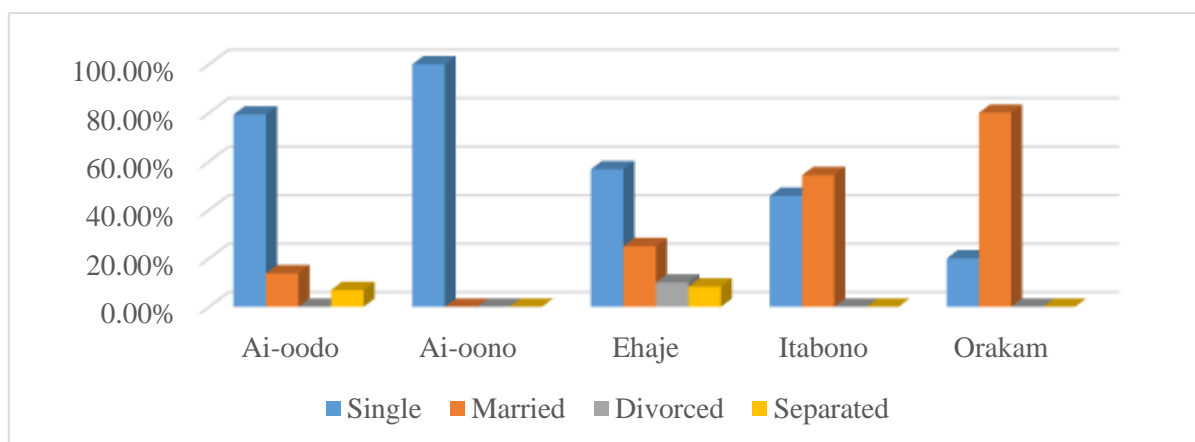
children who would help them in their economic activities, most especially farming activities. Considering the age groups 77.2% of the respondents fell between 18-30 years and the modal age-group 19.2% of the sampled respondent was between 31 -40 years of age. It reveals that majority of the respondents were within the active working class thus, individual can easily endure the physical rigour of construction, marketing or farm activities (Egbetokun, 2009).

Also, about 1.0% of the respondents fell between 41-50 years of age. But very few 2.3% were between 51-60 years old. Moreover, about 19.2% fell within 31-40, 2.3% were within 51-60 while 0.3% of the respondents were above 61 years from Orakam ward. Regarding level of educational attainment, some 48.6% possessed secondary education followed by those with tertiary education 41.7%, some 8.9% have primary education, had only 0.8% have no formal education. Oyedepo (2011) had remarked that education was one of the dominant social infrastructures which can have profound effect on economic development of any nation. It is not only a social investment but also an economic investment which enhances stock of human capacity building

**Table 2: Gender and educational Characteristics of the Respondents (N=393)**

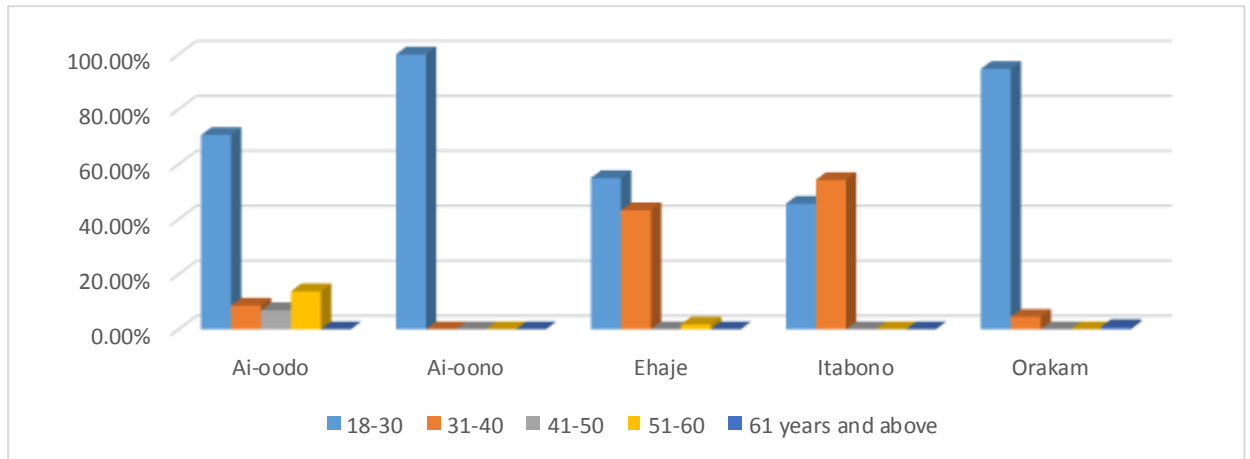
Variables	Ward										Total	
	Ai- oodo		Ai-oono		Ehaje		Itabono		Orakam			
Gender	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Male	29	50.0	33	47.1	28	46.7	47	67.1	56	41.5	193	49.1
Female	29	50.0	37	52.9	32	53.3	23	32.9	79	58.5	200	50.9
Educational levels												
Non- formal education	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.2	3	0.8
Primary education	8	13.8	2	2.9	1	1.7	0	0.0	24	17.8	35	8.9
Secondary education	27	46.6	68	97.1	12	20.0	0	0.0	84	62.2	191	48.6
Tertiary education	23	39.7	0	.0	47	78.3	70	100.0	24	17.8	164	41.7

Source: Authors' Field Work, (2015)

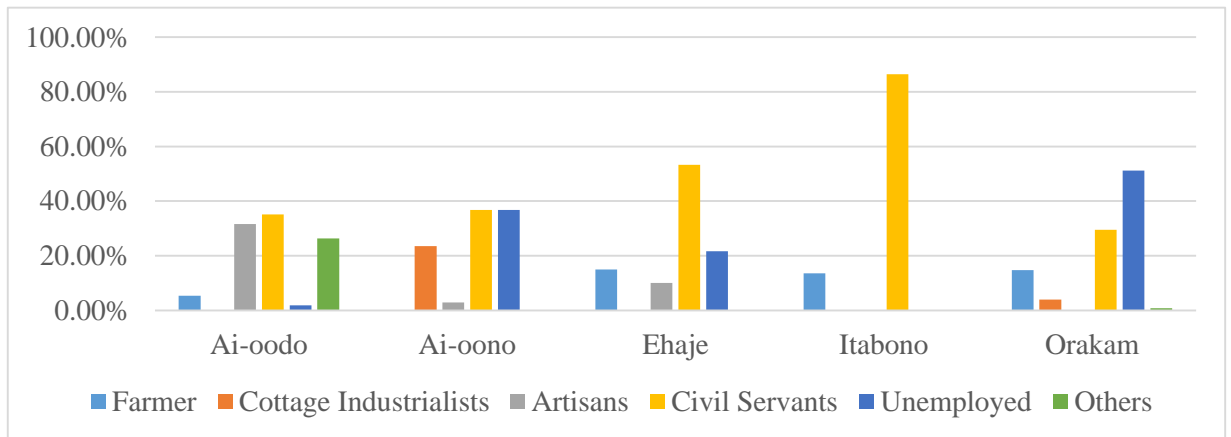


**Fig. 1: Marital characteristics of respondents**

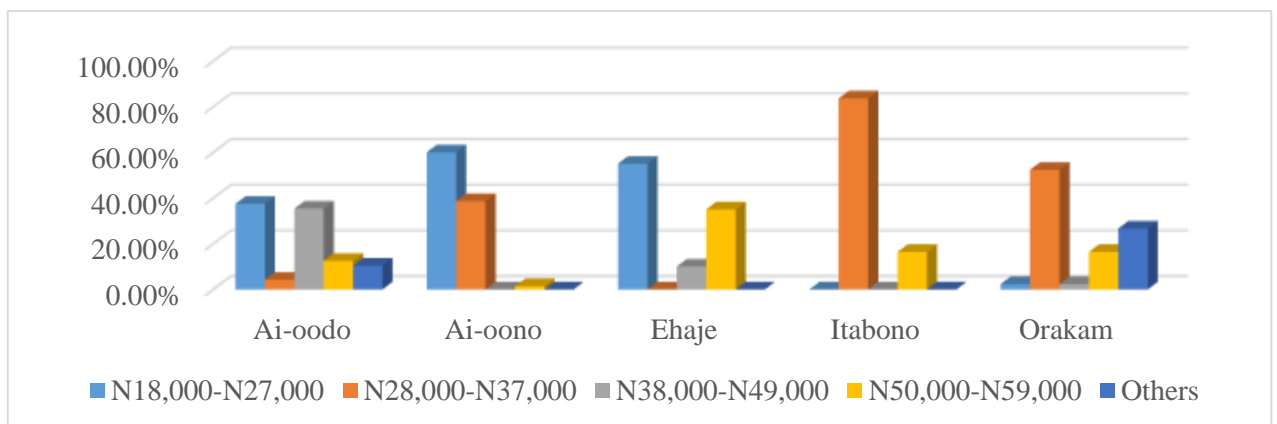
Source: Authors' Field Work (2015)



**Fig. 2: Age of respondents**  
Source: Authors' Field Work (2015)



**Fig. 3: Occupation of respondents**  
Source: Authors' Field Work (2015)



**Fig. 4: Annual Income of respondents**  
Source: Authors' Field Work (2015)

Considering the occupation of the respondents, some 45.3% were civil servants, 27.6% were unemployed 10.5%, 6.8% were farmers, 5.5% were cottage industrialists and about 4.2% engaged in occupations such as Motorcycle riders, and trading driving. On the aggregate, some 60.0% were gainfully employed. On income distribution, some 39.3% of the sampled population earned ₦28,000 - 30,000 per month, while 26.6% earned ₦18,000 - ₦27,000 per month 16.1% received ₦50,000 – ₦59,000, some 7.2% of the respondents received ₦38,000 - ₦49,000. However, the least among the respondents 10.8% were those who specified other range of their monthly income. However, more than 90% of the respondents earned above the minimum wage ₦18,000 per month.

**Characterization of Infrastructural Facilities in the Study Area**

Ogbuozobe (1997) classified rural infrastructure into physical, social and institutional, it was discovered that all forms of rural infrastructure were available in the study area. The available social infrastructural facilities were presented in Table 3. The zero value allotted to some wards is an indication that the social infrastructural facilities were not in existence.

Table 3 revealed that Ehaje has roughly half distribution of infrastructural facilities which comprises of clinics, primary schools and secondary schools with 17.2% each, also communication and vigilante group with 16.4% and 16.7%. In Ai- oodo, vigilante membership with 17.0% of respondents followed by primary school 14.9%, communication 14.0%, secondary school 13.4%, hospital and clinics have 12.2%. Itabono has primary school, communication and vigilante membership representing some 32.7%. Ai- oono has primary school with 20.9%, communication and vigilante group with 21.2%.

**Table 3: Social Infrastructural Facilities by Wards**

Social infrastructure	Wards									
	Ehaje		Ai- oodo		Itabono		Ai-oono		Orakam	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Hospital	14	4	41	12.2	0	0	11	3.4	130	12.4
Clinics	60	17.2	41	12.2	0	0	52	15.8	121	11.6
Primary school	60	17.2	50	14.9	70	32.7	69	20.9	135	12.9
Secondary school	60	17.2	45	13.4	0	0	49	14.8	135	12.9
Recreational cen	1	0.3	10	3.0	0	0	2	0.6	96	9.2
Communication	57	16.4	47	14.0	70	32.7	70	21.2	123	11.8
Police station	28	8.1	23	6.8	4	1.9	2	0.6	63	6.1
Police post	10	2.9	22	6.5	0	0	5	1.5	129	12.3
Member vigilante	58	16.7	57	17.0	70	32.7	70	21.2	113	10.8
Total	348	100	336	100	214	100	330	100	1045	100

Source: Authors (2015)

Orakam has all the social infrastructural facilities except recreational centre and police station representing some 9.2% and 6.1% respectively. It can be deduced that the more the people are educated and healthy, the more they can think as partners in progress with the government toward the transformation of their communities.

The physical infrastructural facilities in Ogbadibo local government area is presented in Table 4. It shows that Ehaje has more roads with 41.0% and power supply with 40.3% response with few bore holes and wells with 17.3%. Ai- oodo has all except for cottage industry and the common amongst identified is bore hole and wells with 40.4%, followed by road with 38.2%. Also, Itabono, Ai- oodo, Ai-oono and Ehaje have more bore holes and wells with 82.1%, 40.4%, 36.8% and 17.3% respectively. While Ai- oono possessed all physical infrastructural facilities except cottage industry, Orakam has all physical infrastructural facilities.

**Table 4: Physical Infrastructural Facilities by Wards**

Physical Infrastructure	Wards									
	Ehaje		Ai- oodo		Itabuno		Ai-oono		Orakam	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Bore Hole/well	24	17.3	55	40.4	46	82.1	68	36.8	68	15.8
Roads	57	41.0	52	38.2	0	0.0	69	37.3	132	30.7
Regular power	56	40.3	27	19.9	10	17.9	48	25.9	135	31.4
Cottage industry	2	1.4	2	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	95	22.1
Total	139	100	136	100	56	100	185	100	430	100

Source: Authors (2015)

The poor road network in Itabono could be linked with the observation of Aschauer (2000) who argued that poor road do not support good water system thus, it increases the level of disease.

The institutional infrastructure was presented in Table 5. It shows that Ehaje has more markets with 57.54% and credit aids with 27.7%. Also, Ai Oodo has some 53.0% of the respondents. It is followed by agricultural aid and cooperative organization with 24.0% and 16.0%.

**Table 5: Institutional Infrastructural Facilities by Wards**

Institutional Infrastructure	Wards									
	Ehaje		Ai- oodo		Itabuno		Ai-oono		Orakam	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Cooperative Org	0	0	16	16.0	0	0	43	37.0	93	13.0
Banks	6	5.9	5	5.0	0	0	1	0.9	84	11.7
Micro Finance bank	6	5.9	1	1.0	60	46.2	1	0.9	130	18.1
Credit aid	28	27.7	1	1.0	0	0	0	0.0	118	16.5
Agricultural aid	1	1	24	24.0	0	0	2	1.7	103	14.4
Market	58	57.4	53	53.0	70	53.8	66	56.9	120	16.8
Extension service	2	2	0	0.0	0	0	3	2.6	68	9.5
Total	101	99.9	100	100	130	100	116	100	716	100

Source: Authors (2015)



Itabuno has market with 53.8% and Micro finance bank some 6.2%. However, Ai Oono has market representing some 56.9%, followed by cooperative organization 37.0% while Orakam has some 18.1% on micro finance bank and low response of (9.5%) on extension services. By and large, Ehaje has the highest market facilities with 57.4%, Ai-oono also benefitted from cooperative organization with 37.0%, followed by Itabono with 46.2% of micro finance bank. The remaining two wards are deficient in terms of institutional infrastructural facilities. Egbetokun (2009) viewed provision of market infrastructure as an essential forum for exchange of surplus food and fiber and that market women can patronize the cooperative organization by saving and borrowing money to enhance economic activities.

**Spatial Variation in Infrastructural Facilities in the Study Area**

The result of Z-score analysis on social infrastructure was presented in Table 6. The first column represented the selected wards, column ZI – ZIX represented the social infrastructural variables and the last column represents the composite scores of the variables.

Orakam ward was found to be advantaged in terms of social infrastructural distribution with a value of 4.01%, followed by Ehaje 0.32 while the remaining wards were disadvantaged in social infrastructural distribution with the values of Ai-oodo -0.67, Ai-oono -1.94 and most under-privileged was Itabono with -5.51. Also, Itabono ward was under-privileged because virtually all the social infrastructural facilities except for communication (0.15) and vigilante group (0.26) were absent.

**Table 6: Z-Score Analysis of Social Infrastructural Facilities**

Wards	ZI	ZII	ZIII	ZIV	ZV	ZVI	ZVII	ZVIII	ZIX	Σ of z-score	Rank
Orakam	0.93	0.43	0.15	0.60	0.97	-0.09	0.35	1.08	-0.41	4.01	1
Ehaje	-0.53	0.66	0.15	0.60	-0.58	0.06	0.35	-0.52	0.12	0.32	2
Ai- oodo	0.42	0.02	-0.77	0.09	-0.23	-0.50	0.20	-0.09	0.19	-0.67	3
Ai-oono	-0.68	0.10	0.06	-0.08	-0.55	0.27	-0.60	-0.71	0.26	-1.94	4
Itabono	-1.00	-1.52	0.15	-1.66	-0.62	0.27	-0.54	-0.85	0.26	-5.51	5

Source: Authors (2015)

ZI-Hospital, ZII-Clinic, ZIII-Primary school, ZIV-Secondary school

ZV-Recreational centre, ZVI-Communication, ZVII-Police station, ZVIII-Police post, ZIX-Vigilante membership.

The result on physical infrastructure was presented in Table 7. It shows that Orakam ward has more than its proportionate share of the physical infrastructure with 1.81 and most under-privileged ward was Itabono with -3.75. This particular ward was found to be disadvantaged in all the variables.

The under-lining factor could be distance separating it from the centre of political power. Aschauer (1998) remarked that public infrastructure underpins the quality of life in that better road reduces accident, improves public safety, and availability of portable water can reduce the spread of common diseases.

**Table 7: Z-Score Analysis of Physical Infrastructural Distribution**

Ward	ZI	ZII	ZIII	ZIV	Σ of z-score	Rank
Orakam	-0.34	0.46	0.65	1.04	1.81	1
Ai-oono	0.65	0.48	-0.04	-0.58	0.52	2
Ai- oodo	0.60	0.26	-0.52	-0.50	-0.15	3
Ehaje	-0.56	0.39	0.50	-0.50	-0.16	4
Itabono	-0.01	-1.93	-1.22	-0.58	-3.75	5

Source: Authors (2015)

Key: ZI-Bore hole II-Roads III-Regular power supply IV-Cottage industry

The result of Z-score analysis in respect of institutional infrastructural distribution was presented in Table 8. It shows that Orakam ward was found to be disadvantaged with the highest score value of 0.82 while the remaining wards namely, Itabono -2.34, Ehaje -2.67, Ai-oodo -2.68 and Ai-oono -2.79 were under-privileged in terms of location of institutional infrastructural facilities.

**Table 8: Z-Score Analysis of Institutional Infrastructure Distribution**

Ward	ZI	ZII	ZIII	ZIV	ZV	ZVI	ZVII	Σ of z-score	Rank
Orakam	0.62	0.88	0.92	1.03	0.92	-0.18	0.82	5.00	1
Itabono	-0.79	-0.57	0.71	-0.77	-0.70	0.27	-0.48	-2.34	2
Ehaje	-0.79	-0.34	-0.81	0.19	-0.67	0.13	-0.39	-2.67	3
Ai- oodo	-0.23	-0.37	-0.97	-0.74	0.18	-0.08	-0.48	-2.68	4
Ai-oono	0.47	-0.53	-0.98	-0.77	-0.64	0.04	-0.37	-2.79	5

Source: Authors (2015)

ZI-Cooperatives ZII-Banks ZIII-Micro Finance bank ZIV-Credit aid ZV-Agricultural aid ZVI-Market ZVII-Extension Service

On the aggregate, the study area is poorly served with institutional infrastructural facilities. Neil (1993) remarked that the importance of rural infrastructural facilities had gained recognition so much that putting in place financial institutions can lead to the provisions of more infrastructural facilities in the rural areas.

**Processes of Resource Mobilization for the Rural Infrastructure**

The study investigated the processes of resource mobilization and sustainability of the infrastructural facilities in the study area and the results are presented in Table 9. It shows that governments particularly the local government was responsible for the provision and the sustenance of the infrastructural facilities in the study area. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) presence was not felt in most of the wards.

The reason is not far-fetched since rural areas could not avail themselves the atmosphere that can attract foreign direct investment.

**Table 9: The Agencies that Provide Infrastructural Facilities**

Agency	Ward										Total	
	Ai- oodo		Ai-oono		Ehaje		Itabuno		Orakam			
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Government	36	92.3	69	100.0	21	42.9	70	100.0	125	100.0	321	91.2
NGOs	3	7.7	0	.0	2	4.1	0	.0	0	.0	5	1.4
Others	0	.0	0	.0	26	53.1	0	.0	0	.0	26	7.4
Total	39	100.0	69	100.0	49	100.0	70	100.0	125	100.0	352	100.0

Source: Authors (2015)

**Distance covered to Utilize Infrastructural Facilities**

The study investigated distance covered to enjoy the infrastructural facilities by the respondents in the study area and the result was presented in Table 10.

**Table 10: Access to Infrastructural Facilities by Distance**

Distance (Km)	Ward										Total	
	Ai-oodo		Ai-oono		Ehaje		Itabono		Orakam			
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
0 – 10	8	19.5	31	53.4	33	100.0	12	100.0	132	100.0	216	78.3
11-20	27	65.9	2	3.4	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	29	10.5
21-40	0	.0	1	1.7	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
41 and above	6	14.6	24	41.4	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	30	10.9
Total	41	100.0	58	100.0	33	100.0	12	100.0	132	100.0	276	100.0

Source: Authors (2015)

It reveals that 78.3% of the respondents do not cover more than 10 Kilometres to use the infrastructural facilities. It is obvious the distance is still much. It is better to get the facilities closer to the rural masses in order to enhance quality of life. Some 10.5% of the respondents covered a range of 11 -20 Kilometres and other 10.9% covered over 41 Kilometres. All hands must be on deck to ensure accessibility to the facilities irrespective of the person’s location.

**Challenges facing Infrastructural Facilities in the Study Area**

The challenges facing infrastructural development in the study area was investigated and the result is presented in Table 11. The respondents indicated that inadequate teaching staff 44.5% in the schools was worrisome. This is followed by inadequate personnel 33.8% for maintaining the infrastructural facilities.

Some other challenges are inadequate number of doctor and nurses in hospitals 11.0% and insufficient fund 10.7% from the government. This implies that if educational sector is affected a lot of problem are expected, because education enlightens citizens on how to go about the management and proper use of infrastructures (Neil, 1993).

**Table 11: Major Challenges of Rural Infrastructural Development**

Challenges	Ward										Total	
	Ai-oodo		Ai-oono		Ehaje		Itabono		Orakam			
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Inadequate teachers in schools	19	47.5	37	53.6	2	4.0	70	100.0	34	25.2	162	44.5
Inadequate doctor and nurses in hospital	6	15.0	0	.0	24	48.0	0	.0	10	7.4	40	11.0
Inadequate personnel for maintenance	2	5.0	29	42.0	2	4.0	0	.0	90	66.7	123	33.8
Insufficient income	13	32.5	3	4.3	22	44.0	0	.0	1	.7	39	10.7
Total	40	100	69	100	50	100	70	100	135	100	364	100`

Source: Authors (2014)

### **Suggestions to Improve Infrastructural Facilities by the Respondents**

The respondents gave varieties of suggestions and the result is presented in Table 12. It shows that establishment of industries 28.5% can go a long way to improving the ugly situation in the rural areas. Also, increment in budgetary allocation 14.8% and similarly, increase in salaries and wages 14.5% of the people could improve the rural infrastructural facilities in the study area.

It is revealed that provision of amenities 8.9% such as roads, health care, educational facilities are suggested as pre-requisites for rural transformation. Also, granting technical assistance 10.7%. local participation in decision making that affect the rural welfare and granting of financial assistance were rated 2.0%.

**Table 12: Suggested Solutions towards Improving Rural Infrastructural Facilities by the Respondents**

Suggestion	Ward										Total	
	Ai-oodo		Ai-oono		Ehaje		Itabono		Orakam			
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Establish industries	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	112	83.0	112	28.5
Provision of personnel	0	.0	0	.0	6	10.0	0	.0	8	5.9	14	3.6
Local participation	8	13.8	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	8	2.0
Granting technical assist.	0	.0	26	37.1	2	3.3	13	18.6	1	.7	42	10.7
Increase budget allocation	29	50.0	2	2.9	0	.0	19	27.1	8	5.9	58	14.8
Provide amenities	0	.0	35	50.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	35	8.9
Increase salaries	3	5.2	2	2.9	25	41.7	27	38.6	0	.0	57	14.5
Provide communication	6	10.3	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	6	1.5
Grant financial assistance	0	.0	0	.0	2	3.3	0	.0	6	4.4	8	2.0
Provide good roads	4	6.9	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	4	1.0
No response	8	13.8	5	7.1	25	41.7	11	15.7	0	.0	49	12.5
Total	58	100.0	70	100.0	60	100.0	70	100.0	135	100.0	393	100.0

Source: Authors (2014)

## CONCLUSION

The issue of infrastructural facilities has become instrumental to socio-economic development of any region and this explains in part why the more reason Federal government of Nigeria has devoted more of the revenue allocation to this vital sector. Be as it may seem, the efforts towards improving the provision and maintenance of the basic infrastructure have not materialized as long as there exists spatial variations in the distribution of essential facilities across the country.

It is obvious from this study that some areas are having more than their average share of the facility whereas some areas are lagging behind or deprived of having access to the infrastructural facilities. In line with the national goal of pursuing an egalitarian society, which implies social justice and fair-play of which regions would have access to consume and enjoy the facilities irrespective of the location, tribe, religion, and political affiliation. But rural communities are lagging behind in terms of provision of social, physical, and institutional infrastructural facilities which have resulted in socio-economic backwardness.

However, with the situation in the study area, it is noted that government and development partners have not sufficiently mobilized and created awareness among the communities the need to embark upon self-help projects such as road construction, building of colleges, provision of portable water and supply of electricity. The community based organizations (CBOs) can become agent of socio-economic transformation in their respective localities and should not solely depend on government to provide everything needed in the rural areas. By doing so, variation in the distribution of infrastructural facilities among regions would be greatly minimized.

Based on the findings, it is recommended that, firstly provision of adequate infrastructure will improve the income of the rural masses. Moreover, it can stem the tide of rural-urban migration. Since rural road network is found to have significant effect on the distribution of the facilities in rural areas, government and other private organizations should improve on the quality of road networks such that remote areas will be linked up with a view to having an equitable distribution of infrastructural facilities in the study area.

Considering the fact that infrastructural facilities are having positive effect on the standard of living, there should be adequate provision and maintenance of the facilities. In this regard, governments at all levels can partner with private organizations in a bid to combat the problem of poor infrastructure in the rural areas. There should be fair-play and social justice in the distribution of essential facilities among the regions that make up the country without any form of discrimination.

Governments should also focus much attention on community-driven development projects when planning for infrastructural facilities. Communities should be involved in the conception, planning and implementation of the projects so that they will be better maintained. Indeed, participatory approach should be adopted in the allocation of the infrastructural facilities. In this regard, local communities should be involved in decision making process that often affect their condition of living. The rural dweller should be empowered to identify, and develop projects that will benefit them rather than imposing the projects on them. In essence, government should encourage communal self-help projects such that communities that embark upon building of schools, health centres, town halls, and ultra-modern markets should be given some technical and financial assistance by the government. This would go a long way in reducing community dependence on government to provide all that they need.

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