

The State and Challenges of Infrastructural Development in Nigeria

¹Eunice Erdoos Ortom, ²Ije, Jairus Okwo, & ³Fadare Benjamin Ibukun

^{1&2}Department of Political Science, Bingham University,

³School of Basic Studies, Bingham University,
Along Abuja Kefi Expressway, Karu Near Abuja

Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/rjhlsid.v6.i1.13

Abstract

The role of the state in infrastructural provision has been the subject of most recent writers on account of the imperative of infrastructural development as a catalyst for national development. This study is an exploration of the interconnectedness between the state and infrastructural development in Nigeria. The objectives were (1) to discover if the national health policies of government have improved the quality of health for Nigerian citizens (2) to investigate if the state has provided adequate road network for the populace. (3) To find out if government has provided adequate electricity supply for its citizens. Our method of data collection is documentary and survey. For the documentary we relied well-researched textbook, journals, internet materials, newspapers among others. While the survey was based on Unstructured interview among top civil servant in relevant ministries a total of 14 civil servants were interviewed. The structural functional analysis was used as our theoretical framework. Our findings revealed that government has not done enough in provision of health facilities, due to bad governance it has not provide adequate road network for the populace also that there is poor power supply. We concluded that if the government is able to provide good health facilities, adequate road network and relative stable electricity supply the situation will improve. We recommended that government should improve its performance in the health sector since a healthy man is a wealthy man. Government must not play unnecessary politics with the salaries and benefits of health providers. Government should conduct regular road maintenance of road by FERMA and construct more roads especially in the Southern part of the country which is worse hit. The federal government should improve its performance in the power sector and ensure the periodic improvement in the electricity Megawatts being supplied to the country. Unstructured elite interview we conducted also supported what we discovered from the study

Keywords: *Infrastructural development, Challenges and National development*

Corresponding Author: Eunice Erdoos Ortom

Background to the Study

Any attempt to describe the character and impact of the state on infrastructural development whether in a systematic manner as suggested by Idachaba, (1979) or in the crucibles of its functional importance as preferred by Owosejeje (2017), is bound to be hazardous and frustrating for scores of reasons. Apart from the paucity of deliberate good will of the state the absence of systematic publication of government on the subject matter, the illusiveness and inaccessibility of few ones especially positive ones. There is equally the bewildering profusion of materials stating what the state has not done to improve infrastructural development. Nnoli (2003) demonstrated the centrality of the state in political analysis when he anchored the study of political science on the study of the state Nwosu and Ofoegbu (1986) demonstrated the importance of the state when they noted that a stateless person can hardly have the security and the confidence necessary to practice a full and stable occupation Laski once observed that every citizen of the modern world is the subject of a state. He is legally bound to obey its order and the contours of his life are set by the norms it imposes (Laski 1978, cited in Onuoha 2020) The concept of the state achieved lime-light status when the international political science association selected the “changing state as the theme of its 1985 world congress. The remarkable paradox here is that in spite of the vast study of the state, in Nigeria, it has not done much in terms of provision of infrastructure in Nigeria. If the state is such an important concept, why is the state of our infrastructure in coma?

Defining the term infrastructure is also problematic on account of its definitional fuzziness specially relating to how the state has impacted on it in Nigeria. The account normally given by pro-government loyalist is often different from what is actually going on in the state due to the coloration of political economy on the intention of such writer. Some colorful publications are in some case put toward especially on the inter-state level to decorate the political aspirations of government in Nigeria. If one examines the role of the Nigeria state in promoting infrastructural development one cannot but confront a dismal picture and a direct opposite of what is proclaimed by the 1999 constitution of how the role of the state in economic development should portray. Nigeria state is in a deep coma not to talk of health and electricity this parlous condition does not in the least favorable to economic development (Nwanne 2023) on this note, one of the most contentions and yet the most fundamental problems that has defiled political diagnosis and treatment is the concept of the state in fact the debate on the actual meaning, nature, character and role of the state especially when it comes to infrastructural development has remained intractable (Onuoha, 2020). Against this background, this study focuses on the state and challenge of infrastructural development.

Organization of the Study

For the sake of clarity and lucid comprehension of the subject matter; the study is organized consecutively as follows: abstract, introduction, organization of the study, origin of infrastructure , statement of the problem, objectives of the study, methods of data collection, methods of data analysis, validity and reliability , conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, classification of infrastructure, causes of poor infrastructural development, role of infrastructure in grass root development access to electricity , state of road, state of health, concluding remark and recommendations and references

Origin of Infrastructure

In the world, the origin of infrastructure days back to the early days of human civilization. The Roman Empire believed infrastructure engineering to be a tragic investment by the state since with infrastructure; people can work together and provide specialized services to one another. Early days and development of infrastructure is also traceable to the days of Dairus the Great a Persian King between 522-486 Before Common Era (BCE) (quoted in Nwanne, 2021). He invested in infrastructure; the Roman Empire also emulated him. King Dairus built canals and road throughout the provinces of his empire which stretched from modern day Iraq to Egypt and Iran origin of infrastructure in the world. It was gradually through the historical background traced here that other infrastructural facility started, (Nwanne, 2023)

Statement of the Problem

To say that one of the major problems that bedeviled the process of development in Nigeria is the state of poor infrastructural facilities, is neither an over statement nor a criticism. It is a fact that is surrounded by evidences. It is reflected in almost all the sectors of the Nigeria economy due to the absence of good governance and it is directly and indirectly affecting Global economy. This is because poor infrastructural facilities have systematically led to the present-day under-development stressing the importance of infrastructure which has never appeared in the priority list of both the colonial British administration in Nigeria, and the post-colonial administrations of Nigeria, Aondowase (2011) noted that infrastructure as a critical form of development plays a crucial role in human society. Indeed, it constitutes the hub upon which the socioeconomic aspects of society revolve. Obviously, improvement on infrastructure is expected to play a vital role in nation building, hence the importance of education facilities, good roads, constant availability of power supply, availability of good water heath and other structural development will improve living standard, create job opportunities, job security and people's happiness unfortunately this is absent on Nigeria. It is sadly noted that in spite of all these imperatives, the Nigeria Government has not made any significant improvement to infrastructural development. This poses a formidable structural pathology to infrastructural development the country.

Objectives of the Study

The study has the following objectives:

1. To discover if the national health policies of government has improved the quality of health for Nigerian citizens
2. To investigate if the state has provided adequate road network for the populace.
3. To find out if government has provided adequate electricity supply for its citizens

Methods of Data Collection

In the study we employed a mixed method of data collection. This includes the documentary and survey methods of data collection. This will not only allow us gather data from primary, but also from secondary sources. Survey method of data collection is indispensable in sourcing of primary data. According to Black and Champion (1976), Survey helps to accumulate information from individuals at relatively low cost. Secondly, Survey are flexible to allow the use of variety of data collecting techniques, thirdly survey sensitizes researchers to

potentials problem that were originally unanticipated or unknown they, perform exploratory and serendipitous functions. In the survey, which was unstructured elite interview a total of 14 civil servants were interviewed selected from top and middle cadre, the researchers were the moderators.

Methods of Data Analysis

In order to concretely analyse the corpus of qualitative data generated in the course of this study, we adopted content analysis. The strength of this method of analysis is that numerous documentary material can be analysed in a clear and systematic manner, convincing evidence can be produced to test the hypotheses, and the analysis can be replicated to confirm the results (Burnham, Gillan, Grant, & Layton-Henry, 2004). Content analysis is a method of putting behavioural data into categories to allow individual screen the content for the purpose of summarization and tabulation. White, (1999, p241) “averred that content analysis allows individual to screen the content of a document with the intention of comprehending its innate structure, ideas and concepts and to measure the information it relates”. McNabb, (2005, p.470) postulated that content analysis provides the researcher with a structured method for qualifying the content of a qualitative or interpretative text and this is done in a simple, lucid and purely reputable manner. Content analysis is anchored on systematic logical deductions, to analyze data collected not only from primary but secondary sources since the study made use of unstructured elite interview which is qualitative. A rigorous utilization of the technique of content analysis helps in selecting what is dependable from what is not (Ibeanu, 1991, as cited in Mbah, 2007). It is used in line with the meanings, contexts and intentions embedded in the messages. Moreover, the primary data derived from unstructured elite interview were analyzed using qualitative techniques by relating the major points of the responses to the objectives of the study. The qualitative data were analyzed in themes

Validity and Reliability of Instrument

Validity and reliability are not only necessary for quantitative research but also for qualitative one. According to Goode and Hart (1952), a scale has validity when it really measures what it claims to measure, however reliability means the ability of a measuring tool to give consistent result across time when applied to the same sample, Goode and Hart, (1952), Black and champion, (1976); McCormick and Tiffins, (1975). To ensure the veracity of information from respondents he or she must be a top or middle cadre civil servant. Therefore, in establishing the reliability of this study, we depended on an internal consistency method of the instrument. Here, we tried during interview to repeat questions just to prove how consistent our respondents were in their answers to questions that were asked earlier. As regards validity of the study, we made use of the content or face validity method together with the use of external criterion to ensure the veracity of the findings of the instrument. The content or face validity ensures that the questions asked were logically linked. The external criterion approach, on the other hand, has to do with comparing the results of the instrument with the current knowledge about the issue being investigated or even comparing the results of such findings with existing records on the issue.

Conceptual Clarification

Infrastructure according to Online Oxford English Dictionary, as (cited in Nwanne, 2022) is defined as the Basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of the society or an enterprise. This means that infrastructure is an essential ingredient for the smooth function of any economy and development of any nation. According to the structural/functionalist theorists. The progress or otherwise of a society depended largely on the functional structures of that society. What this means is that structures in the societies will largely determine the economic development.

Ajayi (2003) noted that the term infrastructure refers to the technical structures that enhance living condition in any society which included health facilities, agricultural facilities, good road network and telecommunications as well as energy and water supply. The engine of nation building through infrastructural development is necessary. The assertion of Ojo (2011) may give us good hindsight. He noted that, as vital as infrastructure is to the socio-economic wellbeing of a nation, successive civil and past military administration in Nigeria has paid little or no attention to their development. The result has been a comatose economy, crippled educational system and fractured health delivery. In other climes, the development of infrastructure is the role of government. But it is the exception in Nigeria.

Thus, infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society like industries, buildings, roads, bridges, health services, governance and so on. It is the enterprise or the products, services and facilities necessary for an economy to function (Sullivan and Schifrin, 2003). Infrastructure can be described generally as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development. It is the means of achieving an objective or set of objectives and also includes the objectives. It is an important term for judging a country, region or state's and individual's developments/status. The term typically refers to the technical structures that support a society, such as roads, water supply, sewers, electrical national grids, telecommunications, and so forth, and can be defined as "the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions.

The World Development Report elaborated by the World Bank (1994) defined infrastructure as long-life engineering structures, equipment and facilities, and also the services that are derived from Furthermore, the definition of infrastructure has been shifting from one focusing on physical fixed assets such as roads, airports, sea ports, telecommunications systems, energy, water distribution systems and sanitation (public utilities). It now often embodies notions of 'softer' types of facilities such as information systems and knowledge bases (Button, 2002). The World Bank landmark study on infrastructure (World Bank, 2004) cited in Nwanne, 2023 highlighted the critical role of infrastructure in the development process. The importance of delivering quality infrastructure has also been underlined by the United Nations declaration of the Millennium Development Goals. Now SDGs.

According to Hirschman (1958) in Olayiwola and Adeleye (2005), infrastructural facilities refer to those basic services without which primary, secondary and tertiary productive

activities cannot function. Broadly this includes all public services like education, public health, transportation, communications and water supply. Infrastructure is the underlying amount of capital accumulation embodied in roads, railways, waterways, airways and other forms of transportation and communication plus water supplies and public services such as health and education (Todaro, 1977). Rural infrastructure is the “physical, capital and the institutions or organizations, both public and private which provide economic services to and which have significant effect directly or indirectly upon the economic functioning of the individual farm firm but which are external to the separate, individual farm firm” (Wharton 1967). Idachaba et al (1979) defined rural infrastructure as those forms of physical, social, human and institutional capital which enables rural residents to better perform their production, processing and distribution activities as well as helping to improve the overall quality of life. In the light of these definitions, rural infrastructure can be seen as the part of the public and private capital base providing the institutional environment within which agriculture operates. Ewa and Agu (1989) said that the infrastructures need to be provided or initiated, established and / or improved upon and that infrastructures can induce rural and agricultural development and practice. Idachaba (1985) gave the three major and broad classes of rural infrastructures in Nigeria and their main components

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework is a device or scheme for adopting or applying the assumptions, postulations and principles of a theory in the description, explanation, analysis and prediction of a research problem. Nwanne and Ayogu, (2015). It is a way of describing analyzing, interpreting and predicting phenomena (Obasi 1999). In order to philosophically, academically and concretely justify and explain the relationship between the state and the provision of basic infrastructure in Nigeria, we predicate our analysis on the structural functional theory or analysis or structural-functionalism.

Structural-functionalism as a theoretical framework is intended to explain the basis for the maintenance of order and stability in society and the relevant arrangements with the society which maintain the said order and stability (Haralambos and Heald, 1980). Structural functional analysis originated in the biological and mechanical sciences as part of systems analysis. It was adopted and adapted as a mode of analysis in sociology and anthropology as is evident in the works of Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons. It was developed for political analysis. By Gabriel Almond. S.P. Varma stresses that structural-functionalism reevaluates around two main concepts – functions and structures, on the basis of which three basic questions could be posed as follows: (a) What basic functions are fulfilled in any given political system, (b) By what structures, (c) Under what condition?

Functions' has been defined by Merton (1965) as those observed consequences which make for the adaptation or adjustment of a given system. Varma (1975) notes that while functional deals with the consequences – involving objectives as well as processes of patterns of actions, structures refer to the arrangements within the system which performs the functions According to the structural/functionalist theorists. The progress or otherwise of a society depended largely on the functional structures of that society. What this means is that structures in the societies will largely determine the economic development.

Ajayi (2003). The basic assumption of the structural- functional framework is that all systems have structures which can be identified and these structures perform functions within the system necessary for its persistence. Thus, it is perceived by Almond (1966), that all political systems, regardless of their type, must perform a specific set of tasks if they are to remain in existence. In various political systems, those functions may be performed by different kinds of political structures and sometimes, even by structures which are not overtly recognized as being, primarily, 'political'. Varma (1975) notes that there is no one-to-one correspondence between functions and structure a particular function may be fulfilled by a complex combination of structures, just as any structural arrangement may perform functions which might have different kinds of consequences for the structure.

In the analysis of political systems, the analyst compares not the political structures since these may not actually be the mechanisms through which all the necessary functions are being performed or they may not be performing the functions originally allocated to them. Structural functional analysis tries to shift the focus of analysis away from the observable institutional political mechanisms to any area where the actual performance of the functional requirement of the system is located. Political systems are then compared in terms of the manner in which structures perform the expected functions in society. There are three output functions which include: Rule making, Rule application, Rule adjudication. All input functions are seen as being performed by non-governmental sub-system of the political system, such as the society, pressure groups, and interest groups, schools, families, political parties, independent newspapers, etc. The output functions are all governmental and it is the government and their bureaucracies.

Political systems can therefore be analyzed and compared in terms of the degree to which their political structures are specialized. Whether specific functions are performed through particular structures or a particular structure can perform a number of functions. In some political systems such as those of the advanced industrial nations of America and Europe, structures are specialized, political roles differentiated and functions specific. In a nutshell, it is to be noted that while the yardstick by which systems are measured consists of the functions which are performed by the political system, the units which are being analyzed, and compared are the various structures which compose individual political systems. Thus, with Almond's method it becomes possible to relate various types of structures to a particular function. While the list of functions is limited, the list of structures can be indefinitely expended depending on the characteristics of particular systems.

The justification for the use of this theory among other competing theories is that is that infrastructure is something that is used for the enhancement of good living condition. According to Jeremy Bentham and J.S Mill, the primary purpose of government is to provide the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people (quoted in Nnoli 2003). Aristotle 384-322 BC noted that government exists for the sake of the best life. Verma (1975) observed that structural functionalism revolves around two major concepts that is function and structure. Since our study focuses on development in Nigeria, the theory becomes without mincing words a sine-qua-non for the explanation and analysis of the issue under investigation.

Classification of Infrastructure

Wharton (1968) classified infrastructure as: Capital intensive; this includes irrigation and public water supply facilities, transport, storage and processing facilities; Capital extensive; this includes extension education services, agricultural research, credit and financial institution; Institutional infrastructures consisting of formal and informal education, legal, political and socio-cultural nature. Another classification apart from Idachaba (1985) and Wharton (1968) was made by Essang (1974). He grouped infrastructure into two broad types on the basis of capital output ratio. These are: 1. High capital/ output ratio: These are capital intensive infrastructural facilities such as transport, storage and processing facilities, irrigation structures and social overheads such as schools, clinics and hospitals; 2. Low capital/ output ratio: These are capital extensive infrastructural facilities such as agricultural research, credit institutions, and marketing and agricultural statistics reporting services. Rural infrastructures are the criteria for the success of public and private efforts aimed at accelerating agricultural and rural development. We cannot expect rapid development or substantial production of agricultural produce if the rural infrastructures are not provided, established or improved upon.

Trends of Infrastructural Development in Nigeria

Infrastructure as a concept has largely been absent from economic discourses for about two centuries (Prud'homme, 2004). Notwithstanding this, by the 1990s after many years of neglect, it featured prominently on the development agenda, with renewed emphasis on the role of infrastructure in economic growth and poverty reduction (Nwanne, 2023). Government infrastructural intervention is a good indicator of the level of genuine state support for small business. Government infrastructural intervention directly translates into social well-being and political participation, and the performance of small businesses shows how much average citizens have been able to partake of the respective nation's rapidly growing economic picture. As rightly pointed out by Karl Polyani: At the heart of the Industrial Revolution of the eighteenth century there was an almost miraculous improvement in the tools of production, which was accompanied by a catastrophic dislocation of the lives of the common people (Polanyi, 1944,). Cited in Nwanne 2023. What Polyani underlines here is the often-ignored fact that while modernization and economic progress do ultimate good for society, the process itself can be quite destructive. Without proper government intervention to ameliorate the social costs of industrialization, modernization may become unsustainable. A major way government intervention to ameliorate the social costs of industrialization is through the provision of infrastructure.

Causes of Poor Infrastructural Development

The honest truth remains that the major causes of poor infrastructure development that permeate Nigeria nation and indeed many African countries find their roots in the structural, systemic and socio-political lapses that are inherent from the past historical realities of colonial administration. This is worsened in the contemporary experience of the neo-colonialism and the current political maneuvering of the present bourgeois democrats since 1999. There has been no clear and implemented political manifesto and ideology with regards to good governance in Nigeria especially since independence. Mohammed (2008) asserted that one of the challenges of development process in Nigeria as in other African societies has

been most pronounced in the area of good governance It lies with the operators of the system of governance in the country, the local and international elites and their perception of what democracy entails, represents and meant for society. (Ezeogidi, 2015).

Good governance remained a theory that has not found relevance in the concept of empiricism and testability in Nigeria; it remained a utopian and unrealizable theory, a million miles journey that is waiting for a takeoff grant. Only God knows when the wind of good governance will begin to blow in Nigeria. According to Achebe (1983) “the Nigeria problem is squarely the problem or failure of leadership Associated with the conundrum of the good governance is the cankerworm called corruption which has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian economy. According to Oluleye and Obi (2012) corruption can be said to be largely responsible for the under development of Nigeria. Funds appropriated for development purposes are either diverted or misappropriated for self-aggrandizement with the consequence that those projects remain undone or uncompleted. A visit to some of the Uncompleted projects or abandoned projects that are scattered all over Nigeria will give a hind sight and information on how very sound developmental projects which would have boosted the infrastructural state of the economy were abandoned at the detriment of the Nigerian poor masses. Some of these projects may have received certificate of completion from the appropriate authority even when they have not been completed. The global effect of the poor infrastructure is that as a result of hardship and frustration occasioned by bad governance and corruption, Nigerians migrates to other countries with no assurance of what to expect. Some of them met a worse condition while some were stranded and could not find their ways back. Hence some of them in the latter category resorted to different types of sinister or illicit businesses thereby posing a social menace to the host country. In the recent past, some Nigerians were deported from various locations in Europe, South Africa and North America.

Role of Infrastructure in Grassroot Development

The role of infrastructural facilities in the grassroots development cannot be overemphasized. UNESCO, (2011) had remarked that rural infrastructure plays a critical role in poverty reduction, economic growth and employment for the rural poor. Moreover, Ale *et al* (2011) shared similar opinion that provision of basic rural infrastructures is a prerequisite for developing economies to stimulate economic growth and reach the state of economic recovery and poverty alleviation through increasing and diversifying agricultural outputs. Also, (Calderon, 2009; Egbetokun, 2009) observed that the provision of infrastructures is part of integrated rural development strategy which combine the development of various areas of the rural society including agricultural, educational, health, nutrition, electrification, water supply and cooperatives simultaneously. This serves as a holistic approach towards solving the rural problem to a large extent. UNESCO, (2011) pointed out that rural individual is poor because they do not have access to infrastructural services for improving quality of life. In the same vein, (Oyewole and Oloko, 2006) had remarked that adequate infrastructures can reduce the cost of production, which affects productivity, level of outputs, and employment including prize. he remarked that where infrastructures are put in place, level of agricultural productivity will be increased and if otherwise, citizens will suffer particularly the rural poor, thus economic renewal and societal welfare become worse and halted (Perkins and Luiz, 2005; Akinola, 2007).

Therefore, a strategy to reduce rural poverty needs to incorporate policies to develop both production and welfare-oriented infrastructures in order to improve poor people's productive capacity and quality of life. Recognizing infrastructural development as a critical factor in rural development, a number of governments programmes were initiated in the past, specifically aimed at improving basic services and infrastructural development for the rural poor.

Access to Electricity in Nigeria

According to Mahdi (2004) the most spectacular failure of successive Nigeria Governments from 1966 to date, which actually borders on criminality has been in the field of energy and power supply. In line with the Mahdi's view, Akinwumi and Ukase (2010) noted that the electricity demand in Nigeria far outstrips the supply and the supply is annoyingly epileptic in nature: a development which is hindering the nation's development notwithstanding the enormous vast natural resources in the country". The situation of power supply has degenerated so much in Nigeria that one can hardly boast of availability of power for six hours uninterrupted supply in a day. This can be dangerous and expensive for industries and domestic users. The effect is enormous. Mahdi (2004) also noted that "it is obviously impossible and unthinkable that investors would contemplate on investing in Nigeria when the country has been for most of the time in total black out". There is no doubt that many industries folded principally as a result of poor power supply and the high cost of operating with private generator and plant. The reason is that operating with plant and generator resulted in high overhead cost which knocks off the product in the market as a result of competition with foreign products. It is almost impossible to talk of economic development as a reality in 21st century in a situation where greater percentage of operating cost of an industry is on power generation and maintenance. The annoying thing about this epileptic power is that the people are suffering in the mist of plenty. There is no doubt that Nigeria being the sixth largest oil producing country is blessed with natural resources which included energy. The nation had a proven reserve of 25 billion barrels of crude oil in 1999. This increased substantially to 34.5 billion barrels in 2004. Sambo (2008) projected that Nigeria's oil reserve will reach 68 billion barrels by 2030. The infrastructural state in Nigeria is in coma stage this has negatively affected the growth of SMEs in Nigeria as we stated earlier. SMEs would have been able to provide the much-needed job in the informal sector.

Moreover, accesses to electricity in rural areas show that the percentage of the population that has access to electricity in rural area is highly unimpressive. The electricity sector has recently recorded further system collapse with some parts of the country thrown into darkness due chiefly to equipment failure. This is due to the lackluster attitude of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN). For example, the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) in charge of Kogi, Niger and Nasarawa state as well as FCT, lament that they have only 20 megawatt (MW) of electricity allocated to it as against over 400MW that it has been receiving in recent time (Ejoh, 2021). In a related development the Eko Electricity Distribution Company added that there has been a collapse in the national grid due largely to the general instability in the electricity system in Nigeria. This disappointing and epileptic power supply fundamentally undermines economic development in Nigeria since electricity and other infrastructure is indispensable for the economic development.

In a related development, Ohiare, (2015) lamented that the challenge of inadequate electricity supply in rural area is further compounded by lack of cogent electrification plan which have posed a formidable challenge to the development of SMEs in Nigeria. The 2017 United Nations declaration of International year for sustainable energy for all highlights the rationale for sufficient electrification project to accelerate the pace of development. But despite the above electricity supply remains elusive in most parts of developing countries to the extent that about 1.3 billion people are have no access to electricity with 85 percent of them living in rural areas of Asia and sub-Saharan African (Ohiare 2015) (Goldemberg, Rovere & Coelho 2004) For International Energy Agency (IEA) 2011 Sub-Saharan Africa has an electrification rate of 32 percent. Again, 70 percent of those lacking access to energy live in a handful of countries including Nigeria. Moreover, it is evident in works of Ohiare (2015), ESMAP (2005), that the Northern parts of Nigeria suffer more for this lack of electricity while an estimated 73 million Nigerians lack electricity going by the NBS figure of 2013. Kano state has the highest number of households without electricity. Approximately average of 769,000 households in each states of the federation of Nigeria lack access to electricity while the state with the least number of un-electrified households is Edo at 106,000 households approximately (Ohiare 2015). Taraba is the least electrified state so far in Nigeria, (Ohiare, 2015).

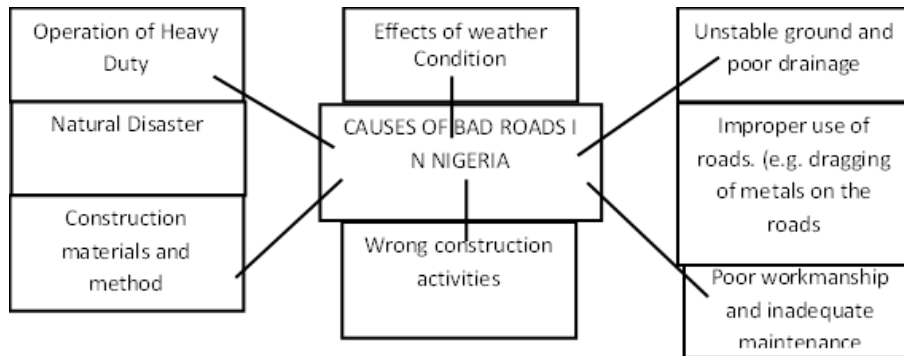
Nevertheless, the non-availability of electricity has worsened over the years, in Nigeria; its commercial sectors have become heavily reliant on self-generated power using petrol. Nigeria's shortage of reliable power supply is a constraint on its economic growth. The lack of economic diversification or the dominance of oil sector in our economy is implicated in in in the current poor incentives for SMEs in Nigeria. Moreover, the state of transport infrastructure has been generally poor as roads, rails, air and water transport system have for scores of years been afflicted by deplorable condition such that most rural areas cannot link up with the rest of the country. Again, the different transport modes are not properly linked to several socio- economic needs of the people in Nigeria. The federal government claims that they are doing their best to improve incentive portfolio for SMEs to exist but the effects has not been seen in Nigeria (Edo and Ikelegbe 2014). The electricity sector has recently recorded further system collapse with some parts of the country thrown into darkness due chiefly to equipment failure. This is due to the lackluster attitude of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN). For example, the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) in charge of Kogi, Niger and Nasarawa state as well as FCT, lament that they have only 20 megawatt (MW) of electricity allocated to it as against over 400MW that it has been receiving in recent time (Ejoh, 2021, cited in Nwanne 2022). In a related development the Eko Electricity Distribution Company added that there has been a collapse in the national grid due largely to the general instability in the electricity system in Nigeria. This disappointing and epileptic power supply fundamentally impact on incentive portfolio for SMEs in Nigeria since electricity and other infrastructure is a sine-qua-non for economic development in Nigeria

State of Road in Nigeria

Apart from the provision of electricity by government, road network has been suffering the same fate in Nigeria. See for example Enwerem and Ali (2016), Abdulkareem and Adeoti (2005), Agbonkhese (2013), explore the economic effect of bad road network on both SMEs,

large industries and motorist who convey finished goods to their final destination. The overall impact of bad road has cause extra havoc for SMEs especially the agro-based SMEs who have to move their products from one location to the other. Many roads in Nigeria has fallen beyond expectation structural failure of roads is due to some of the reasons figured out below. This affect development.

Figure 1: A Typical Road Problem in Nigeria



Source Enweren & Ali 2016 p.763

The figure above presents a typical road problem in Nigeria which ranges from the operation of heavy duties, effects of weather condition, unstable ground and poor drainage system, natural disaster, improper use of road eg dragging of metals on the roads construction material and methods, wrong construction, including poor workmanship and inadequate maintenance as illustrated in the figure above. Nigerian roads are owned by federal, state and local government. The table below shows the structure and state of road ownership by the different tiers of government.

Table 1: Structure of Road Ownership in Nigeria

	Federal	State roads	L.G. Roads	Total	Percent
Paved roads	26,500	10,400	-	36,900	19%
Unpaved main roads	5,600	20,100	-	25,700	13%
Urban roads	-	-	21,900	21,900	11%
Main rural roads	-	-	72,800	72,800	38%
Village access roads	-	-	35,900	35,900	19%
Total	32,100	30,500	130,600	193,200	100%
Percent	17%	16%	67%	100%	

Source: CBN, (2003) cited in Enwerem & Ali 2016. p.7

The table above shows the total number of road network in Nigeria. The estimated current total road network in Nigeria is about 194,000 one hundred and ninety-four thousand

kilometers CBN, (2003) but only 19 percent of these roads are paved road, while the rest are at different stages of dilapidation. The table also shows the numbers of paved main road, unpaved main roads, urban roads, main rural roads and village access roads in the federal, state and local government in Nigeria and their various percentages. From CBN report as cited in Enwerem & Alli, 2016, the annual loss due to bad roads is valued at N80 billion, while additional vehicle operating cost resulting from bad roads is valued at N53.8 billion (Enwerem & Ali, 2016), bringing the total loss per annum to N133.8 billion. The worst of all is that this causes air pollution, delayed movement, armed robbery and incessant accident on the road all these impacts negatively on infrastructure and consequently economic development in Nigeria.

Health Infrastructure

THE World Health Organization (WHO, 1984) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. This definition that uses to be the most acceptable definition of health is bedeviled by concerted criticism based on the use of the phrase “complete physical, mental and social well-being. “Critics have contended that no person could be in the state of complete health in the strict sense of the word. They argued that healthy is a matter of one's ability to adjust to one's condition. What it implies is that when an individual is not able to adjust to one's condition, that individual suffers from ill-health. Consequently, this adjustment is a matter of urgency and should be regular. This is because achieving and maintaining health is an ongoing process, shape by both the evolution of health care knowledge and practices, as well as personal strategies and organized interventions for staying healthy (Jadad and Grady, 2008). This makes health policy necessary. A policy is a formalized set of procedures designed to guide behavior. Its purpose is to either maintain consistency in behavior or alter behavior to achieve specified goal. It is a management strategy, like what might be implement for a business (or organization) to achieve a desired profit or an NGO to achieve its social mission (Magretta, 2002).

Health policy can be defined as the “decisions, plans, and actions that is undertaken to achieve specific healthcare goals within a society (World Health Organization, 2017). According to the WHO, an explicit health policy can achieve several things; it defines a vision for the future; it outlines prioritize and the expected roles of different groups; and it builds consensus and inform people (WHO, 2017) Based on the above criticism of the WHO definition, Alex Jadad and Laura Grady (2008) (cited in BMS 2011) propose a new definition of health as “the ability to adapt and self-manage in the face of social, physical and emotional challenges” according to them, if health is the goal of healthcare and research, we then need to know what it looks like and how to measure it. They explain the currently accepted definition, formulated by WHO in 1948 is no longer helpful and is even counterproductive. Its emphasis on “complete physical and social well-being” was radical in its days for stepping away from defining health as the absence of disease.

Health Policies in Nigeria

A Policy is a purposive action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with matters of concern. Essentially, a nation's health policy is the blueprint and step by step guidelines of how health issues are handled, promoted or treated by health practitioners at all levels be it primary, secondary or tertiary. It is a formal statement or procedure within institutions (notably government) that defines priorities and parameters for action on health matters. A health policy is intended to be a vehicle for the exploration and discussion of health issues aimed at enhancing communication between the practitioners and consumers otherwise referred to as the public.

The goal of the Nigeria Health Policies is to bring about a comprehensive health care system, based on primary health care that is; promotive, protective, preventive, restorative and rehabilitative to every citizen of the country within the available resources so that individuals and communities are assured of productivity, social-wellbeing and enjoyment of living. The health services, based on primary health care, shall include among other things: education concerning prevailing health problems and the methods of preventing and controlling them. But unfortunately, the Nigerian health system has failed woefully since all efforts to convince the government to improve it has ended in a monumental fiasco in the recent years.

Nigeria's Health System

As stated above, Nigeria health infrastructure is in a parlous state. Unfortunately, the position of Nigeria is very poor as the country's position in World Health Organization (WHO) ranking is 187 out of 190 countries. The positioning of Nigeria on the world health system is nothing to write home about. As the most populous country in Africa and the most endowed with resources of all kinds, our placement on the world health system is a complete disappointment and slap in the face to the so called "giants of Africa". African countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Gambia, Gabon have been ranked to have a better, more standard and highly affordable healthcare system in comparison to Nigeria. The highest with the best healthcare system in the world is France because they have made healthcare a second oxygen to the people, both rich and poor alike. It is both highly affordable and effective services are rendered. In contrast, the lowest is Myanmar, of which Nigeria is above by just two spots. They are ranked thus for the reason of sub-standard or lack of proper healthcare facilities and delivery services. This poor health provision affects the development of SMEs in Nigeria, since a healthy man is a wealthy man. The government proves conservative and adamant to providing health infrastructure for the populace. As Africa's most populous country and one of its biggest economies, Nigeria's health indicators are of national concern.

National Health Insurance Scheme

National Health Insurance Scheme, or NHIS for short, is a corporate body that provides health insurance in Nigeria. It was established in 1999 by the Act 35 of the Constitution. Its main goal is to provide accessible healthcare to all Nigerians regardless of their social status or income. NHIS aims to provide quality affordable healthcare by providing its participants with pre-paid plans. These payments are collected into a collective fund, which is then used to cover

any expenses for medical services and supplies that participants might need. (Awoyinfa, 2019). The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) is a combination of both compulsory and voluntary contributory health insurance schemes targeted at formal sector workers as well as informal sector workers. It aims at ensuring access to quality health care services, provide financial risk protection, reduce rising cost of health care services and ensure efficiency in health care, (Aregbesola, 2018).

Percentage of Nigerians Covered by NHIS

Although formally established in 1999, Nigeria only launched the NHIS in 2005 after several attempts at introducing legislation on health insurance, since the 1960s. Since its launch over a decade ago, NHIS is yet to achieve the aim for which it was established, with less than 5 percent of the Nigerian population, mainly federal government workers and their dependents being covered by the scheme. (Aregbesola, (2018). In fact, less than seven million out of the 180 million people in the country are covered, of which the majority of the enrollee are the Federal Government workers, according to the NHIS.

A maternal death is defined as the death of a woman during pregnancy, childbirth or within 6 weeks after birth, but not from accidental or incidental (such as self-harm) causes. The maternal mortality rate is given as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in a specified period. The UN views a rate of fewer than 100 deaths per 100,000 live births as low. Once the rate crosses the 300 barrier, it is considered high and above 500 very high. Nigeria's maternal mortality rate (about one mother's death in every one hundred delivered) is one of the highest in the world. Some other health status indicators like under-5 mortality rate and adult mortality rate are higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa. It has been estimated that Nigeria loses 2,300 children under the age of five and 145 women of child bearing age every single day, and accounting for the second largest number of maternal and child deaths in the world (Ifijeh, 2016). Besides, fifty percent of economic growth differentials between developed and developing nations are attributable to ill-health and low life expectancy (World Health Organization (WHO), 2005). Developed countries invest a substantial proportion of their budgetary allocations in the provision of health care because they are convinced that their citizens' health can serve as a major driver for economic growth. As health is wealth, no amount spent on health by a nation is considered much. The United Nations (UN) recommended for a country, an average of 8 to 10 percent of the GDP as a benchmark expenditure on health (UNDP), (2016) all these structural pathologies in the health sector are remain the byproduct of bad governance. Thus, until the rotten tooth is pulled out, the mouth must be chewed with caution.

Besides, fifty percent of economic growth differentials between developed and developing nations are attributable to ill-health and low life expectancy (World Health Organization (WHO), 2005). Developed countries invest a substantial proportion of their budgetary allocations in the provision of health care because they are convinced that their citizens' health can serve as a major driver for economic growth. As health is wealth, no amount spent on health by a nation is considered much. The United Nations (UN) recommended for a country,

an average of 8 to 10 percent of the GDP as a benchmark expenditure on health (UNDP), (2016). Available data indicated that on average about 2.1%-5.8% of total government expenditure was expended on health between 2015 and 2020 (National Bureau of Statistics NBS, 2020). The belief is that this would improve the health of the citizenry which can translate into a healthy human capital base with effects on economic growth and development. Statistics have shown that the country's public expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP is 4.1 percent against the 4.6 percent African average and over 9.3 percent in developed countries. On the other hand, the 2020 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme shows that Nigeria's human development index increased, but her ranking continued to be at the low levels of human development.

The assertion by Ibrahim Waziri Abubakar (2011:75) will serve as a good beginning in over viewing the state of health service in Nigeria. He contends that, Nigeria's health sector has been performing below expectation for so long despite the billions of naira spent for it. Policies have been produced, refined, panel beaten and changed: agencies have been created to focus specific health matters: all sorts of foreign aids and assistance have been into the country for several decades, yet Nigerians still die of health conditions and diseases that are easily preventable.

The obvious truth is that cost of assessing medical services is very high, and in most cases are not affordable to the majority of the populace. Only few percentages of Nigeria can afford to travel to Overseas for a better treatment especially for such ailment that may not be treated well in Nigeria or not treated at all. Problems like heart transplant, kidney and liver problems and some other complicated ailments may cost over two million naira to treat in India, Pakistan, United States. The cost is above the total earnings of an average Nigeria civil servant for five years, assuming he decided not to spend one naira out of his entire earnings. The cost does not include, transport fare, feeding and accommodation of the sick and his attendant. The alternative to this high cost is that people resorted to the patronage of quark doctors and other alternative medical solutions. It is true that the federal government has come up with the National Health Insurance Service Scheme. This is beneficial and applicable mainly to the civil servants who are still finding it difficult due to the associated deductions from their meager salary after other deductions including taxes. Hardly could the National Insurance Scheme be assessed by the rural dwellers. Pearce (2001) noted that “from colonial period, the pattern of medical care delivery and infrastructural provision favoured the Urban population in particular at the expense and detriment of the rural settlers”. It should be noted that, most of the medical centers located in the rural areas were built by the Christian missionaries who were largely for evangelism. According to Ademiluyi and Aluko (1982) “these medical centers in the real sense were merely mobile clinics and at most communities' dispensaries or outposts to treat primary health problems such as snake bite and minor injuries.

Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

In this study the researcher investigated the mutual interaction and reciprocal influence between the state and provision of infrastructure in Nigeria. After a systematic and comparative examination, we concluded that, the government under the instrument of

National Health Insurance Policy has continued to put the country on a reverse gear due to blatant and deliberate neglect of the health to the peril of the ordinary man. Couple with mangrove insufficiency of motorable road network which have continued to exacerbate the sufferings of mankind. We also concluded that insincerity and the spoil or patronage system in politics has made government neglect the power sector the absence of good governance over a long period of time in Nigeria has been seen as the fundamental cause of the souring state of basic infrastructure in Nigeria, one cannot give what he does not have. The Nigerian government over the years are fundamentally bereft of good conscience and has refused to listen to the yearning and aspirations of the people Unaccounted of the above conclusion, we proffer the following recommendations

1. The study recommended among others that government should improve its performance in the health sector since a healthy man is a wealthy man. Government must not play unnecessary politics with the salaries and benefits of health providers.
2. Government should conduct regular road maintenance of road by FERMA and construct more roads especially in the Southern part of the country which is worse hit.
3. The federal government should improve its performance in the power sector and ensure the periodic improvement in the electricity Megawatts being supplied to the country. Unstructured elite interview we conducted also supported what we discovered from the study.

References

- Abubakar, I. W, (2011). *Infrastructural inadequacies and health Sector crises in Nigeria: A case of roads, water and power supply* in the book of proceedings of 56th annual congress of the historical society of Nigeria held at Osun state University, Osogbo on 31st October 2nd November
- Achebe, C. (1983). *The trouble with Nigeria*, Enugu: Forth Dimension Publisher
- Ajayi, A (2003) *YahayaJammeh and Gambia revolution*, Ibadan: Stoling Hardan Publishers
- Aondowa. I, (2011). *Structure adjustment programme as impediment to infrastructure development in Nigeria* in the book of proceedings of 56th annual congress of the historical society of Nigeria held at Osun state University, Osogbo on 31st October – 2nd November
- Agbonkhese, O. (2013). *Road traffic accident in Nigeria: causes and preventive measures from* <http://www.iiste.org/journalindexpeerarticle>. Accessed on 20/9/20
- Burham, P. Gillan, K, Grant, W. & Layton-Henry, Z. (2004). *Research methods in politics*, New York: Palgrave, Macmillan
- Edo, O. & Ikelegbe, A. (2014). *The Nigerian economic reform emerging trends and prospect*, Ibadan: Longman Publishers

- Ezeogidi, C. (2015). *The historical overview of infrastructural development in Nigeria and the effect on education and global economy 1960 – 2014*, Available at <http://sson.com/abstract=3563497>.
- Haralambus, H. & Heald, R. (1980). *Sociology themes and perspective*, London: Oxford University Press.
- Ifijeh, M. (2006). Reducing maternal mortality in Nigeria. *This Day Newspaper*. From <http://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016>. Reducing maternal-child mortality in Nigeria. accessed on 24/05/18
- Igwe, O. (2002). *Politics and globe dictionary*, Enugu: Jamoe Enterprises
- Laski, H. J. (1958). *A grammar of politics*, London: Allen and Urwin Limited.
- Nwanne, J. C, Abah, E. M, & Ulu, K. O. (2023). Russian – Ukraine conflict and world economy, *International Journal of Strategic Research in Public Administration and Organizational Process (IJSRPAOP)* (3) 1.14 – 26.
- Nwanne, J. C. (2021). *Rentier state and the development of small and medium industries in Nigeria 2011 – 2018*. Being A thesis submitted to the department of political science University of Nigeria, Nsukka
- Nwanne, J. C. (2023). *Rentier state and the development of small and medium Enterprises (SME)s in Nigeria 2011 – 2018*. Being A thesis submitted to the department of political science University of Nigeria, Nsukka on 15th February.
- Nnoli, O. (2003). *Introduction to politics revised second edition*, Enugu PACREP
- Makanjuda, O. A. (2024). *Human capital expenditures and unemployment in Nigeria: 1999 – 2022*, Being a dissertation submitted to the department of economics Bingham University in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of master of science (MSc) degree.
- Mba, P. (2007). Executive –legislative relation in Nigeria: The presidency and National Assembly. 1999 – 2006, *Nigeria Journal of Social Science NJSS* 4(1)
- Morgan, D. L (1993). Quantitative content analysis: A guide to paths not taken, *Quantitative Health Research* 3(112)
- Obasi, I. N. (1999). *Research methodology in political science*, Enugu: Academic Publishing Company
- Onuoha, J. I. (2020). *Motor- park democracy interrogating the tout theory of politics*, Nsukka Nigeria: Great AP Express Publishers.

- Ohiare, S. (2015). *Expanding electricity access to all in Nigeria: A spatial planning and cost analysis* 5(8), Available at [http\](http://www.asyowosejej.com): Ohiare on electricity accessed on 2 May 2022
- Oladipo, E. O. (2011). *The gowon regime and post-civil war reconstruction in Nigeria 1970 – 1974, A case of infrastructure development by compulsion* in the book of proceedings of 56th annual congress of the historical society of Nigeria held at Osun state University, Osogbo on 31st October – 2nd November
- Owosejeje, S. A. (2020). *What Nigeria poor power supply really cost and how a hybrid system could work from*, [http://www.asyowosejej](http://www.asyowosejej.com). Accessed on 4/8/22
- Pearce, T. (2001). Women, the state and reproductive health issues in Nigeria, *Journal of Cultural Africa Women Study*
- Sambo, A. B. (2008). *Matching electricity supply with demand in forth quarterly international society of energy economics*.
- Sellitiz, C. Jelinda, J., Deutsch. M. & Cook, S. T. (1977). *Research methods in social relation*. London: Methuen & Co. Limited
- UNESCO (2011). *Financing education in sub-Sahara Africa: Meeting the challenges of expansion, equity and quality*. UNESCO Institute for statistics from <http://www.unis.unesco.org>. accessed on 23/12/23.
- Uzobo, E. (2017). Health policies and maternal/child health in Bayelsa state Nigeria, *Jos Journal of Social Issues* 10(1) 120 – 139
- Varma, S. P. (1975). *Modern political theory*, London: Vicas Publication
- World Health Organization (WHO). 2017. *Health policy*, [http://www.healthpolicy](http://www.healthpolicy.org). Accessed on 23/3/18
- WHO (2005). *Health differentials between developed and developing countries*, from [http://www.undphealth](http://www.undphealth.org). accessed on 20/10/21